



# ACADEMIC HANDBOOK

## Academic Information & Course Catalog

2021-2022

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

FAITH COMMUNITY

THE ARTS

A K-12 community ▪ Harrisonburg, Va. ▪ [easternmennonite.org](http://easternmennonite.org)

# Contents

<b>I. Educational Philosophy</b>	<b>3</b>
A. Mission, Vision & Faith Practices	3
B. Personal Development	3
C. Experiential Learning	4
<b>II. Academic Program</b>	<b>4</b>
A. Pursuing Academic Excellence	4
B. National Honor Society	5
C. Honor Scholar Awards	6
D. Commencement Honors	6
E. Customized Learning	6
<b>III. Academic Assessment</b>	<b>6</b>
A. Examinations	6
B. Evaluation Tools	6
D. Homework	7
E. Honor Roll	8
F. Online Instruction Days	8
G. Mid-Quarter Progress Grade Report	8
H. Report Cards	8
I. Standardized Testing	8
<b>IV. Academic Expectations</b>	<b>9</b>
A. Academic Eligibility for Co-Curricular Activities	9
B. Academic Support for Students	9
C. Academic Integrity	10
D. Family Educational Rights & Privacy Act (FERPA)	11
E. Field Trip, Athletic & Elective Absences	11
F. Study Hall	11
G. Transfer Students	12
H. Early Graduation	12
<b>V. Academic &amp; Counseling Support</b>	<b>12</b>
A. Counseling Program	12
B. Learning Support Services	13
<b>VI. Preparing for the Future</b>	<b>13</b>
A. Graduation Plans	14
<b>VII. Registration and Scheduling Information – High School</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>VIII. Course Offerings</b>	<b>17</b>
ART	17
BIBLE	21
ENGLISH	23
FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES	27
MATHEMATICS	30
MODERN LANGUAGES	33
MUSIC (to be updated for 2021-22)	35
PHYSICAL AND HEALTH EDUCATION	38
SCIENCE	40
SOCIAL STUDIES	44
ELECTIVES	47

**PLEASE NOTE:**

*This document has not been adapted for our school experience under COVID restrictions. The majority of the content focuses on our academic program; however, some items, such as experiential learning may not happen as we have typically done (or may be cancelled if needed to mitigate risk).*

*Eastern Mennonite School does not discriminate on the basis of any race, color, handicap, national or ethnic origin, or religion, and admits students to all rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school.*

*The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the school's non-discrimination policies, including its [Title IX policy](#): [Andrea Wenger](#), Director of Advancement.*

*For assistance related to Title IX or other civil rights laws, please contact OCR at [OCR@ed.gov](mailto:OCR@ed.gov) or 800-421-3481, TDD 800-877-8339.*

# I. Educational Philosophy

## A. Mission, Vision & Faith Practices

**Mission:** Eastern Mennonite School joins home and church in calling students to faith in Jesus Christ, academic excellence, personal integrity, and compassionate service in the world.

**Vision:** Eastern Mennonite School aspires to reflect Christ's light as a learning community where every student belongs, thrives, and lives God's call.

### **Faith Practices:**

- Our students are encouraged to grow in **relationship with Jesus** and to follow Jesus daily in life through attitudes and practice.
- Our students grow in understanding the process of **Biblical discernment** by asking questions, practicing spiritual disciplines, including serving others, prayer, studying scripture, and engaging with other people of faith.
- Our students grow in their understanding of **stewardship** of all God has entrusted to them, including the natural environment.
- Our faculty and staff invite **parents and churches** to partner in each student's faith formation.
- Our faculty and staff are committed to **following Jesus Christ** in their lives which includes being peacebuilders, practicing nonviolence, seeking justice, using restorative practices, serving others, and being part of a reconciling faith community.
- Our school community is **responsive to cultural, racial, and socioeconomic diversity** and enables students to practice global awareness, cultural sensitivity, antiracism and compassionate living.
- Our school community regularly engages in participatory communal worship through **singing** together.
- Our school community is committed to **walk with each other** in love, even when we **openly disagree**.

## B. Personal Development

Since God created each one uniquely, each student has a variety of gifts and abilities. EMS challenges each student to develop and practice a range of behaviors, skills and traits—which forms the groundwork for effective life-long use of those gifts and abilities. These behaviors include critical skills exhibited by successful persons, such as those characteristics listed below:

- the ability to clarify conditions of right and wrong
- the ability to organize and follow through
- persistence
- expanded vocabulary
- a voracious appetite for reading
- strong thinking and reasoning ability
- insight
- the ability to manage impulsivity
- adeptness in relationships and a confident sense of self and the future

We believe these behaviors can be encouraged, modeled and taught to all students regardless of their academic goals. In the courses offered, students are challenged with a range of options in assignments and projects which require students to use these behaviors in building new knowledge structures.

In study, worship or play, students are challenged to integrate faith with life—to learn and apply biblical standards to life's decisions. As a culminating activity, students in the spring of their senior year put together a Senior

Presentation as part of the required Kingdom Living class. Through this presentation, they have the opportunity to reflect upon their spiritual, academic, and emotional development through their high school years.

### **C. Experiential Learning**

Experiential learning happens in the classroom daily, on field trips, and through the annual experiential learning programs. These experiences are designed to address one or more of the following focus areas: 1) Learning a new skill or skill building; 2) Service learning; 3) Cross-cultural awareness; and 4) Academic enrichment.

Sixth, Seventh and Eighth graders participate in a grade-level specific “Explore Week” course during the same week in April that the high school students experience E-Term. The course ties to the curriculum at the respective grade level and is designed to spark discovery.

Students in grades 9-12 are required to participate in at least one Experiential Learning Course (E-Term) each year they are enrolled at EMS. E-Term courses are offered in April each school year and in the summer in the form of state-side and international trips. Church-sponsored mission and service trips can also count as E-Term courses provided the experience is at least five days in length. During E-Term courses, students (including those on church mission or service experiences) will be required to keep a journal. Students who participate in summer experiences are encouraged (though not required) to participate in an April E-term as well.

## **II. Academic Program**

### **A. Pursuing Academic Excellence**

As our mission statement conveys, we desire that all students experience academic excellence so they will leave EMS prepared to serve any community in which they live and to strengthen relationships with God and others.

Each child, uniquely created by God, has varied academic needs. We encourage each student and family to discover what is appropriate for them—both to be challenged in their learning but not to be overwhelmed. Discerning this balance may take some time as students acclimate to our learning environment. For those desiring a rigorous program, our honors courses or courses with optional honors as well as AP course offerings should provide the challenge needed. Each of these opportunities provides for an advanced level of research, reading and critical thinking skills.

Honors Course: Any Advanced Placement or university-level course is considered an Honors Course (assigned an additional 1.0 weight—5.0 instead of a 4.0). These courses do have prerequisites so that the student is adequately prepared for the depth and pace of learning in an AP or DE course.

Optional Honors: Courses designated “Optional Honors” allow students to challenge themselves in their learning beyond the scope of the standard curriculum. Courses taken for optional honors will carry a .50 honor weight (4.5 instead of a 4.0). Two approaches are used for optional honors work.

Approach A: Teachers provide students with embedded challenge within homework assignments, special projects and assessment.

Approach B: Student contracts individually with the teacher for advanced independent work, requiring additional research, reading and critical thinking. Optional honors work features the following components:

- 1) time (additional investment to the regular coursework)
- 2) engagement with experts in the particular field
- 3) deeper learning (requirements should give students a deeper view of the subject)
- 4) independence (students are responsible to initiate work and maintain a manageable schedule)

- 5) production (students must work toward a culminating experience to capture what they've learned—presentation, written document, portfolio)
- 6) metacognition (students should reflect upon what they have experienced throughout the learning time)
- 7) qualitative grade for any work produced for optional honors

Requirements for Optional Honors Work:

- For Approach B, students in an Optional Honor Course will have the first week in a quarter course and the first three weeks in a semester or year course to arrange with the teacher the advanced independent study.
- When the student completes all the course work (regular and optional honors) with the quality expected for honors, the course will receive an honors designation on the student's transcript and the additional grade points.
- **Each teacher will determine the threshold for awarding the optional honors weight, such as a certain grade or the quality of work.**

Independent Study: Students who wish to invest time and learning in an area of interest and expertise may wish to do an independent study. These projects must be cleared with a supervising teacher (in the area of expertise of the teacher). Typically, the projects run for a semester or for the year. Students are expected to make a presentation of some kind at the conclusion of the work. Note: Students completing an independent study should include the components listed above for optional honors work.

In some instances, courses may be run as an independent study due to scheduling conflicts. The course is more in line with the regular course expectations and will not use the guidelines listed below.

The following options will be used for evaluation of independent study work:

1. **Pass/Fail**: Satisfactory completion of work (determined by the supervising teacher) will result in credit based on time spent. Typically, students earn .50 for a semester and 1.0 for the year depending on the scope of the project. Students wishing credit must make some kind of presentation by the end of the school year.
2. **Evaluation Measure** (standards-based, percentage or letter grade): In addition to the credit, students choosing to receive qualitative feedback on their work should confer with the supervising teacher to determine best approach. Once work is completed, this evaluation will be included on the student's transcript. Students wishing credit must make some kind of presentation by the end of the school year.
3. **Honors Level Work**: The supervising teacher may decide that independent study work is being completed at the college level and qualifies for Honors level evaluation. In these instances, teacher will work with the students to set expectations. Work must be completed in a timely fashion. Students wishing credit must make some kind of presentation by the end of the school year.

## **B. National Honor Society**

In keeping with national standards, the Eastern Mennonite School Chapter of the National Honor Society seeks to honor those students who are exemplary in academic achievement, character, service and leadership. Students become eligible for membership after the first semester of their Junior year, if they have achieved a 3.5 GPA. Transfer students may be eligible if their previous school was an accredited school and if they were eligible under the requirements of their previous school. International students may be considered after two semesters at EMS. Eligible students are invited to supply documentation of service and leadership involvements in order to merit further consideration for membership. An evening spring semester induction ceremony for families and the students is held to honor and welcome new members.

Once a member of NHS, students are expected to maintain their academic achievement, meet service hour expectations, and be a student in good standing. Should students drop below required GPA, be deemed "not in

good standing” or not meet service requirements, they may not remain in NHS and will not be designated as an NHS member in the Commencement program.

### **C. Honor Scholar Awards**

As a way to promote academic endeavors in an area of strength for students, most academic departments have outlined a set of criteria leading to an Honor Scholar Award (see each department for its criteria). The School Counseling Office and teachers begin introducing the criteria for these department awards in the ninth grade, encouraging interested 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade students to work toward these awards. Seniors who have earned Honor Scholar Awards are recognized with a departmental award in a year-end chapel.

### **D. Commencement Honors**

During the Commencement program, the two seniors with the highest GPAs (determined at the end of third quarter) will be chosen to speak about the academic achievements and experiences of their class. The honor of valedictorian will be awarded to the student with the highest GPA and salutatorian to the one with the second highest GPA. These honors will be calculated once final grades have been posted.

### **E. Customized Learning**

In addition to learning in the courses offered, five other venues allow students to develop their individual interests. These include:

1. Additional coursework (such as optional honors work or student choice in project learning)
2. Online learning through an accredited program (additional cost may be required)
3. Participation in an external program such as Massanutten Technical Center
4. Individual research and study projects
5. Internships

These opportunities, described in other sections of this handbook, provide students with multiple ways to challenge themselves, to explore new interests, and to consider potential careers. We encourage students to find the level of engagement that suits them as learners.

## **III. Academic Assessment**

### **A. Examinations**

Each semester, teachers will create a culminating activity for students for their course. In some cases, the activity is a culminating exam, others may have a unit test or a final project or essay due.

Students are expected to take exams during the exam period. Extenuating circumstances may require an alternative testing time. In those instances, students or parents contact the Director of Academics at least two weeks prior to the end of the semester so that arrangements can be made with the teacher for the alternative time.

### **B. Evaluation Tools**

Teachers at EMS use a variety of tools to evaluate student work. We believe that grades do not completely represent the learning gained through any course, but they do provide students, parents, and ultimately colleges and employers, a window into the knowledge gained and the work habits established by a particular student. Colleges do award academic scholarships based on a student’s grade point average. The chart below represents how a course grade is translated into a grade point average (GPA).

Standards-Based Grading	Percentage	Letter Grade	GPA Weight		
			Standard	AP/Univ. Course	Optional Honors
Exemplary	98-100	A+	4.2	5.2	4.7
	93-97	A	4.0	5.0	4.5
	90-92	A-	3.8	4.8	4.3
Accomplished	87-89	B+	3.2	4.2	3.7
	83-86	B	3.0	4.0	3.5
	80-82	B-	2.8	3.8	3.2
Promising	77-79	C+	2.2	3.2	2.7
	73-76	C	2.0	3.0	2.5
	70-72	C-	1.8	2.8	2.3
Developing	67-69	D+	1.2	2.2	1.7
	63-66	D	1.0	2.0	1.5
Beginning	60-62	D-	.80	1.8	1.3
No Mastery	0-59	F	0	0	0

*Additional Information:*

- **Conditional Grades:** Students in full credit courses (totaling 1.0) may fail one semester and pass another. If the averaged semester grades result in a passing grade of 60% or better, credit will be awarded to the student.
- **Incomplete:** In some instances, often due to an illness or other extenuating circumstances, students may be given an incomplete, which allows for time to complete assignments. Their current course may be an F on their report card, but once work is completed, the final grade will be stored and reflected on the transcript.
- **Withdrawal Passing (WP) or Withdrawal Failing (WF):** Students withdraw from class for a variety of reasons. Please see section seven for more detailed information.
- **Extra Credit:** EMS teachers sometimes choose to give “extra credit”:
  - a. To provide “hope” for an inadequate performance on a test;
  - b. To provide remediation possibility for a series of low homework or quiz grades;
  - c. To set challenge points for rigorous enrichment material;
  - d. To offer bonus points for challenge test questions.

As a general guideline for the extra credit type experiences outlined in a and b above, the extra credit points will not raise the grade in any one quarter more than 2%. Also, this extra credit will not raise the grade above 100%. (However, these guidelines are not necessarily used to limit challenge points as specified in c and d above.)

## D. Homework

Homework is assigned as an extension of classroom material. Homework may be designed to further practice procedures and concepts, to aid student comprehension of material (perhaps in preparation for class discussion), to apply classroom learning to new situations; or to require students to analyze or evaluate topics under discussion. Whatever its purpose, homework is an important aid to learning.

EMS recognizes that homework load will vary for each student, depending on the type of courses taken, the amount of time spent in co-curricular activities and the learning style of the student. Ideally, students should have no more than 30 minutes per class for high-school level classes. Additionally, the school commits to students having no homework assigned for Wednesday evenings (unless it was given ahead of time) so students may attend youth group activities or may have a night of “breathing room.”

Completing work as assigned and on time is a strong life-long skill, a behavior exceedingly useful for both

school and work. The grade for completed and on-time homework is based on full credit. Doing the work, even if it is late, is also important, as it provides students with the necessary practice time for learning. (Completed assignments generally mean better quiz and test scores). Our general guideline for handling late work is as follows: Assignments handed in the next day will be granted 80% credit. Work handed in on the second to third day after the due date will be based on 60% credit. Work handed in the fourth day and after can receive 0-60% credit, at the teacher's discretion. Teachers may decide, based on coursework needs or the age of the student, to adjust these guidelines.

## **E. Honor Roll**

In grades 6-12, students must earn all grades of 80 and above to be named to the A/B Honor Roll. The designation is awarded by quarter. Only full-time students are eligible for the Honor Roll. Full-time students must be on campus for two out of four classes each semester. Online or university classes are counted toward eligibility as long as the courses are added to the student's EMS transcript. Any student with an incomplete in one or more classes will not be eligible for the Honor Roll.

## **F. Online Instruction Days**

When weather or other circumstances requires the closing of school, school officials may call for an "Online Day," which means that students will be given assignments through PowerSchool to complete at home.

### Synchronous Learning

When appropriate, teachers may request that students join a Zoom session at a designated time. Students will be considered absent if they are not present. Parents should contact the front office if a student cannot be present for a synchronous session.

### Asynchronous Learning:

Teachers may opt for asynchronous learning, in which assignments are given for the day. Types of assignments may include: reading, continued work on projects or essays, or a new assignment. Teachers should observe the following guidelines when assigning work for an Online Day:

### **Online Day Guidelines:**

1. Asynchronous assignments should not take more than 30 minutes.
2. Assignments will be posted by 10:00 a.m.
3. Students will be given one day for every on-line day to complete new assignments in case they don't have power or access to a computer or if they were sick during an online day.

If advanced notice is possible, school officials will remind students prior to any potential weather that would close school to bring home textbooks, reading materials and classroom papers.

## **G. Mid-Quarter Progress Grade Report**

Mid-quarter grade reports, identifying students earning grades below 70 are issued to parents mid-way through each quarter.

## **H. Report Cards**

Report Cards are emailed the week following each quarter (9 weeks). Prior to receiving a report card, the students and parents can check PowerSchool for academic progress.

## **I. Standardized Testing**

While yearly, state-mandated testing may not be part of annual assessment at EMS, the school does recognize the role standardized testing plays. Learning to take a standardized test is important as any student who wishes to attend college will likely need to take the SAT or ACT. Periodic testing also gives teachers and counselors

valuable information about academic performance. In addition to the PSAT offered to sophomores and juniors, students in fourth, sixth and ninth take ACT Aspire. A number of students in their junior and senior year will take Advanced Placement exams.

## IV. Academic Expectations

### A. Academic Eligibility for Co-Curricular Activities

Co-curricular activities provide positive contributions to the life of the student and to the school. EMS also recognizes that this participation cannot come at the expense of academics.

#### Monitoring Grades and Providing Support

To support students and encourage success, counselors will monitor students throughout their co-curricular activity. A mid-quarter grade report will be generated for anyone earning below a 70%.

Middle and high school principals, athletic director, school counselor, academic lab teacher and or music/drama director will communicate with the student to determine the contributing factors for the low grade.

The student and the academic support persons will identify what additional help and/or consequences are needed to assist the student to achieve a passing grade within a reasonable time frame.

Those persons working with a student may require (but not limited to) supervised work time in study hall, attendance in math lab or supervised study sessions.

D/F Policy:

At mid-term of the quarter, when the mid-quarter report is generated, students with an **F are not eligible** to participate in co-curricular activities **until they have a passing grade**.

At mid-term of the quarter, the mid-quarter report is generated, students with a **D are eligible to participate**; however, they may be required to remain for after-school study halls or be restricted in their location during the school day if in a study hall.

At end of quarter, when grades have been finalized, if a student receives an F, the student has 7 days of ineligibility from date of when teacher final grades are due.

If a student is failing at other points in the year, other than mid-term or end of quarter, counselors and principals will make a specific plan for that student.

*EMS recognizes there may be exceptions and adjustments to this policy to meet the individual needs of our students.*

### B. Academic Support for Students

Some students who do not participate in co-curricular activities also need monitoring for low grades. Sometimes the period of low or failing grades is short-lived and require minimal support; others are more long-term and require intervention from the school and family. The Counseling Office compiles every 4 ½ weeks a list of students who are earning a D or an F. Counselors and principals review this list and collaborates with students, teachers, parents, coaches or directors to find a pathway toward a stronger academic performance.

When a student has failed first semester in a core class, he or she may pass the class if the second semester grade and the first semester grade together result in a 60% (or D-) or above. In some circumstances, students may be

offered a modification to the course material, which is reflected on the transcript with the designation “foundational,” such as “Foundational US History.”

The Director of Academics and the high school counselor will review senior grades at the conclusion of first semester. If any student has failed a course necessary for graduation, then the high school counselor will develop a plan to address the failing course. It may mean retaking it second semester or deciding for an online course. (Summer work will likely be required for second semester senior academic problems.)

The desire of the school is to ensure that all students experience academic successes in line with their interests and capacity. When they do not experience that success, the school will work with the families to see what can be done to promote a positive school experience, either with us or at another school.

### **C. Academic Integrity**

Personal integrity is a character trait highly valued at EMS and is part of our mission statement. Academic integrity demonstrates itself when students complete their own work (homework, projects and tests) and when they are honest when confronted about any concerns. Teachers assist students in developing academic integrity by defining what collaboration looks like and/or explaining expectations for assignments and assessments. Cheating is defined as wrongfully giving, taking, or presenting academic information with the intent to deceive.

Students may be vulnerable to academic dishonesty when they leave assignments to the last minute, when they do not understand material or when they don’t care about an assignment. Because motivations may be different, it’s important that students are honest with themselves and their teachers to work through instances of dishonesty.

Examples of cheating (not intended to be a comprehensive list):

- Handing in work that is not completely your own
- Indicating that you completed an assignment when you did not
- Copying someone else’s work
- Giving a classmate your work so they can use it as their own
- Using the internet to find answers on a test
- Plagiarizing – using the writing of another person without proper attribution

When a situation arises involving academic integrity, the school will use the following practices:

1. The teacher will discuss situation with the MS or HS Principal or the Director of Academics to determine the types of consequences necessary, which may include a loss of points on an assignment. The severity of the dishonesty will be considered.
2. The student will meet with the teacher and/or the Principal or Director to discuss the situation.
3. A note will be included in the student’s academic record. This record is not typically passed along to colleges; however, if the student had repeated instances of academic dishonesty, this information may be passed along to other schools and/or colleges as appropriate.
4. Principal (MS or HS) will also contact parents as appropriate.
5. A plan for change will be developed

**Plagiarism:** This particular form of cheating is especially possible due to technology. While a tool for learning, technology can also become an easy way to be dishonest whether the student knowingly plagiarizes a paper or unknowingly uses information without proper citation. The goal of the school is to have students understand how to best use the expertise of others in their writing. Teachers use the tool of Turnitin, a web-based program that compares a student’s writing to others in its database, to assist them in holding students accountable for their work.

It's important that students understand that **plagiarism occurs when an individual takes the writings and/or ideas of another person and presents them as his/her own (no citation)**. Following are some examples:

1. Copying material verbatim (and using quotation marks) from a source, but failing to cite the source.
2. Copying material verbatim and citing the source, but failing to use quotation marks.
3. Carefully (or non-carefully) paraphrasing the source without giving the proper citation. (Paraphrasing is "borrowing" the idea and must be cited.)
4. Patchwork paraphrasing (in which writer keeps many of the source's key words but rearranges the order) is a particularly insidious form of plagiarism—even if cited.

In clear cases of plagiarizing, the following scale of teacher response is suggested:

- Level 1: Student plagiarized less than a paragraph. Teacher uses this as an opportunity to teach and student is required to redo the assignment. Parent contact by teacher is made when appropriate.
- Level 2: Student plagiarized larger sections of his or her paper or has committed a second offense. Teacher must contact parent(s) and student receives ½ credit of the earned credit.
- Level 3: Entire document is plagiarized or student has committed a third offense. Student receives a zero for the assignment and parent is contacted.

At each level, the teacher will supply the principal with a record of the event to be entered in the student's electronic file.

As a general rule, the same paper may not be submitted, the same book may not be read, nor may the same project be submitted to meet requirements in two or more courses unless the teachers of the courses have given their prior consent.

#### **D. Family Educational Rights & Privacy Act (FERPA)**

FERPA is a Federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. EMS is required to have written permission from parents in order to release any information from a student's educational records. Schools may disclose, without consent, "directory" information such as student's name, address, telephone number, honors and awards and dates of attendance. However, parents may request that the school not disclose directory information.

At the beginning of each school year, parents receive a form requesting this information and permission to disclose.

#### **E. Field Trip, Athletic & Elective Absences**

While the EMS Student Handbook addresses the topic of absences, it should be noted here that students who are absent from class due to field trips, athletic events and elective absences are expected to talk with the teacher ahead of time to determine what work needs to be completed and by what date.

#### **F. Study Hall**

Our students invest themselves in the classroom, in athletics and in co-curricular activities as well as at home and at church. To provide space in the school day to manage academics, students may opt to take a study hall. One quarter study hall may be sufficient for students, especially during a busier season.

##### Study Hall

Study halls are overseen by a teacher. More than one study hall in a school day may be appropriate especially if a student is taking an online course or completing an independent study.

Typically, study halls meet in a teacher's classroom each period, with a teacher monitoring attendance. Sometimes, the study halls take place in the library. After the roll is taken, students in grades 9-12 are permitted to sign-out to one of the designated areas (library, commons, courtyard, bathroom, etc.) for a predetermined amount of time. If a

student needs to visit a teacher, prior arrangements must be made. Students need to sign in to the library upon arrival.

Students may be sometimes required to remain in the study hall location rather than signing out, perhaps as a result of low grades or other concerns (such as covid mitigation).

All middle school students assigned to a study hall will remain in the classroom for the entire period.

## **G. Transfer Students**

A minimum of one year in residence is required to graduate from Eastern Mennonite High School. Each student's prior record will be evaluated to determine the number and content of credits required for graduation. Courses specified by the State of Virginia and normally taken at lower grade levels will not be required, provided the student has completed the courses required at those grade levels by the state from which the student transferred.

Students from unaccredited schools (both state-side and international) and home schools may be required to take diagnostic tests to determine grade level at which the student will enroll. Furthermore, these students will receive Pass/Fail credit for courses taken prior to EMHS—so that GPA is determined by grades earned at EMHS. Documentation may be required to establish content covered prior to awarding credit.

## **H. Early Graduation**

In some instances, students may feel the need to complete high school within three years instead of four. In most cases, it's best to follow a four-year plan; however, we want to work with families when this option seems like a good fit for a student. We request that families alert the high school counselor as soon as possible if this option is being considered.

# **V. Academic & Counseling Support**

## **A. Counseling Program**

The goal of the counseling program at Eastern Mennonite School is to assist students in academic, career, and personal/social development through individual and group counseling as well as classroom lessons. This is a coordinated effort by faculty, staff, and parents under the direction of the counselors and principals.

There are many reasons a student might see a school counselor.

Academic counseling aims to assist students and parents on academic options, developing a plan of studies, and as a link to additional academic resources when appropriate. Counselors direct students to opportunities that match their interests, both in and out of school.

College & Career counseling assists students in acquiring information and planning for post-secondary educational and career opportunities.

Personal/social counseling assists students in developing a greater understanding of themselves as they relate to the community around them, supports healthy and wise choices, and provides support in resolving conflicts.

Individual Counseling School counselors assist in helping students work through their unique requests or concerns. While EMS does not provide long term weekly counseling, connections and referrals can also be made with professional community mental health counselors as ongoing psychological needs necessitate.

Group Counseling Group counseling may be provided surrounding specific themes of social development or other identified areas of interest or assessed needs. Parents/guardians are notified prior to any multi-session group counseling.

Classroom Counseling Lessons Counselors work collaboratively with teachers to develop and bring curriculum into the classroom. Topics relate to students' academic, career or social development.

### Access

Students may request an appointment with a counselor by email or in the counseling suite. Students should ask teachers before leaving class when they wish to meet with a counselor. Parents and teachers may call or email counselors if they would like to request an appointment for their student. Alternately, counselors may request to see a student if a counselor becomes aware of a need.

### Confidentiality Statement

At all times we seek to work with and honor parental involvement. All concerns of students and/or their families are met with appropriate and careful confidentiality. Where there exists perceived threat of harm to self or others, additional protective procedures will also be followed. When necessary, other professional counsel will be obtained.

### Opt-Out

If parents choose not to have their student participate in personal/social counseling or multi-session group counseling, parents must notify the school in writing.

## **B. Learning Support Services**

In addition to the oversight given to all students in their learning by teachers, the school provides learning support services for students who need additional resources to be successful in their classes. For some students, this support happens through Academic Lab (see the description under the English department course offerings), and for others this support happens through tutoring (see the non-departmental offerings section).

Students placed in Academic Lab are usually recommended by the Admissions Committee (new students) or by the Learning Support Coordinator when classroom teachers observe challenges in learning (could be from a diagnosed disability or challenges with organization and completion of work).

Math Lab is also available to students Monday-Thursday from 3:00-3:30 p.m. Students typically meet in the room of their math teacher to consult with the teacher or work with a peer tutor.

## **VI. Preparing for the Future**

Career and college information is located in the School Counseling Office. Pamphlets and catalogs are available for browsing. An online program provided by EMS, SCOIR, is introduced to students and used throughout their high school career. Students are encouraged to use these resources to help plan their future. The school counselors will help with additional information as well.

As we support students while they prepare for their futures, we work with each student to determine the best academic path while still in high school. The graduation plans are intended to shape an academic plan as students consider their post-high school plans. Each family and student should consider interests, gifts and abilities in charting a sequence of courses that will prepare the student for post-high school experiences. Families and students should consider that colleges do not see the graduation plan chosen. An admission officer only sees the courses taken. Therefore, if a student wishes to apply to a highly selective college, he or she should build a schedule that incorporates rigorous courses within the student's areas of interests.

In grades 9 and 10, students will learn about resources for supporting them as they plan for the future, including SCOIR, a college and career research tool. Ninth graders take the ACT Aspire test in the fall, and sophomores take the PSAT in October, which gives them an early look at how well they do on a standardized test.

In 11<sup>th</sup> grade students take the PSAT, meet with the college & career counselor to review those scores and begin a conversation about post high-school plans, including reviewing high school transcripts. Students are encouraged to begin college visits. Seniors will be supported by the college & career counselor throughout the senior year with applications and career planning.

Parental Support

We encourage parents to talk with their children to discern the best path after high school. Parents are encouraged to meet with our college and career counselor at any time during high school to explore the needs of a particular student as he or she prepares for post-high school plans.

**A. Graduation Plans**

Students typically earn seven to eight credits a year. An EMS diploma requires 28 credits total, regardless of the graduation plan. EMS 9–12 graduation requirements are listed below according to the four graduation plans:

**GRADUATION PLANS**

<p><u>General Graduation Plan</u></p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>English</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>Math</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>Social Studies</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>Science</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>Bible</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>Physical Ed</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>Art or Music</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>FCS</td><td>.50</td></tr> <tr><td>Electives</td><td>9.5</td></tr> </table>	English	4	Math	3	Social Studies	3	Science	3	Bible	2	Physical Ed	2	Art or Music	1	FCS	.50	Electives	9.5	<p><u>College &amp; Career Graduation Plan</u></p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>English</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>Math</td><td>3 (must include Algebra II)</td></tr> <tr><td>Social Studies</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>Science</td><td>3 (must include Chemistry)</td></tr> <tr><td>Language</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>Bible</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>Physical Ed</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>Art or Music</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>FCS</td><td>.50</td></tr> <tr><td>Electives</td><td>7.5</td></tr> </table>	English	4	Math	3 (must include Algebra II)	Social Studies	3	Science	3 (must include Chemistry)	Language	2	Bible	2	Physical Ed	2	Art or Music	1	FCS	.50	Electives	7.5		
English	4																																								
Math	3																																								
Social Studies	3																																								
Science	3																																								
Bible	2																																								
Physical Ed	2																																								
Art or Music	1																																								
FCS	.50																																								
Electives	9.5																																								
English	4																																								
Math	3 (must include Algebra II)																																								
Social Studies	3																																								
Science	3 (must include Chemistry)																																								
Language	2																																								
Bible	2																																								
Physical Ed	2																																								
Art or Music	1																																								
FCS	.50																																								
Electives	7.5																																								
<p><u>Selective College Graduation Plan</u></p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>English</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>Math</td><td>4 (must include Pre-Calculus)</td></tr> <tr><td>Social Studies</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>Science</td><td>4 (must include Chemistry)</td></tr> <tr><td>Language</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>Bible</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>Physical Ed</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>Art or Music</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>FCS</td><td>.50</td></tr> <tr><td>Electives</td><td>3.5</td></tr> </table> <p><i>Students pursuing this plan should have at least <u>one to three AP courses</u></i></p>	English	4	Math	4 (must include Pre-Calculus)	Social Studies	4	Science	4 (must include Chemistry)	Language	3	Bible	2	Physical Ed	2	Art or Music	1	FCS	.50	Electives	3.5	<p><u>Highly Selective College Graduation Plan</u></p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>English</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>Math</td><td>4 (must include Pre-Calculus)</td></tr> <tr><td>Social Studies</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>Science</td><td>4 (must include Chemistry)</td></tr> <tr><td>Language</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>Bible</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>Physical Ed</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>Art or Music</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>FCS</td><td>.50</td></tr> <tr><td>Electives</td><td>2.5</td></tr> </table> <p><i>Students pursuing this plan should have at least <u>three to five AP courses</u>.</i></p>	English	4	Math	4 (must include Pre-Calculus)	Social Studies	4	Science	4 (must include Chemistry)	Language	4	Bible	2	Physical Ed	2	Art or Music	1	FCS	.50	Electives	2.5
English	4																																								
Math	4 (must include Pre-Calculus)																																								
Social Studies	4																																								
Science	4 (must include Chemistry)																																								
Language	3																																								
Bible	2																																								
Physical Ed	2																																								
Art or Music	1																																								
FCS	.50																																								
Electives	3.5																																								
English	4																																								
Math	4 (must include Pre-Calculus)																																								
Social Studies	4																																								
Science	4 (must include Chemistry)																																								
Language	4																																								
Bible	2																																								
Physical Ed	2																																								
Art or Music	1																																								
FCS	.50																																								
Electives	2.5																																								

**OTHER IMPORTANT NOTES**

- The College & Career Graduation Plan requires Algebra II and chemistry.
- International students transferring to EMS may still work toward the Highly Selective Graduation Plan without having to take three to four years of another language (the assumption being that studying in an

American school demonstrates proficiency in English, which is usually the second or third language that a student has studied).

- International students will likely need to take an English proficiency test prior to acceptance into colleges/universities.
- The requirements for the College & Career Graduation Plan align with the requirements for NCAA Division I schools.

## VII. Registration and Scheduling Information – High School

Planning for the next school year begins in late February to early March. Students meet with the counselors, request courses, and then receive a preliminary schedule in May. The following information is important in planning for the coming year.

### Eligibility for University Courses

Qualified EMHS students (usually Seniors) may arrange through the School Counseling Office to take courses at EMU (possibly JMU, Blue Ridge or Bridgewater as well), provided proper scheduling arrangements can be worked out. While EMU does give a significant tuition discount for this arrangement, EMHS students taking courses for college credit at any local college or university must pay a credit hour tuition (per semester) at that institution. Students should arrange with the EMS School Counseling Office to take a course at EMU or another local university or college.

Guidelines for taking college or university courses:

- a. University courses will generally not take a student out of any portion of EMHS required courses.
- b. The School Counseling Office, in consultation with the teacher, may be willing to consider minor time infringements to an elective course to allow a student to take a university or college course.
- c. A minimum 3.5 GPA is required for eligibility to take a college course.
- d. The EMHS student shall have taken all prerequisite courses at EMHS—before enrolling in a college or university course.
- e. Freshmen and sophomores are generally not permitted to enroll in university or college courses.

High school credit for university/college courses:

- a. Upon completion of a school-approved university/college course, the EMHS student must bring a copy of his/her grade report to the School Counseling Office if the grade is to be included on the EMHS transcript. The university course, with its earned grade, will be recorded on the student's EMHS transcript. However, students are also advised and urged to request EMU (Blue Ridge, Bridgewater or JMU) to send a transcript to each college/university to which they are applying—to ensure that a course is recognized as a college or university course (and not simply a dual enrollment course).
- b. A .5 unit of high school credit with the **full honor weight** (“A” receives a 5.0 instead of a 4.0) will be given for each satisfactorily completed semester of a three-hour university course. (If the university course is more than 3 hours or less than 3 hours, the .5 unit of credit will be prorated accordingly.)
- c. The credit cannot be awarded and noted on the transcript until the student submits a copy of the university or college grade report to the School Counseling Office.

EMHS and EMU have arranged for a dual enrollment for some of our courses.

### Expectations for Online and Enrichment Coursework

We encourage students to invest themselves in expanding their learning opportunities, which sometimes means adding an online course or an off-campus learning experience to their regular coursework. We ask that parents and students inform us when students enroll in external courses especially if the student wishes to have the credit

added to his or her transcript. The school offers courses through an online platform as part of tuition only when a significant scheduling conflict requires them to be enrolled in an online course.

A student may decide, after starting an enrichment credit course, to withdraw from the course. Reasons may include a change of interest or finding that the coursework interferes with other school work. The course will not be listed on the transcript. In some circumstances, a student may find it necessary to take an online course to complete course requirements for graduation. Such completed courses will be included as part of the student's transcript, regardless of the grade.

### **Massanutten Technical Center**

EMHS can arrange for students to pursue vocational training one-half day at Massanutten Technical Center (MTC). For additional details, contact the EMHS School Counseling Office. Students will need to register with the student's "home school" (the one you would attend if you were not at EMHS).

Students interested in attending MTC will take the usual core courses for 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grades at EMHS. Students who go to MTC will receive 1.5 credits each for math and science in their first year. The other four MTC credits will be elective credits. Students should talk with the counselor about their graduation plan to ensure that they may still meet the desired plan. Transportation must be arranged by the family to and from MTC.

### **Repeat Courses and Transcripts**

Sometimes a student elects to take a course twice to improve understanding of concepts and/or processes and to earn a better grade. For transcript purposes, the grades from each attempt at the course will be listed on the student's transcript. Both grades, therefore, will be averaged into the cumulative GPA. However, the student who takes a course twice will receive credit only once (not repeat credit) toward required credits for graduation.

### **Changes to Final Schedule**

Here are the guidelines regarding schedule changes:

1. Prior to the start of school, schedule changes may be made with the Director of Academics. Once school has begun, students should see their school counselor to make any changes. Some requests may not be granted when sections are full.
2. In most circumstances, students should make schedule changes with their counselor within the first five school days of a quarter. This time frame ensures that students will not miss significant material when adding a new course.

### **Withdrawal Procedures—After the first week of school**

1. A student who wishes to withdraw from a course is encouraged to talk first with the teacher to determine if such a decision is in the best interest of the student.
2. If there is agreement, then the student should talk to his or her counselor, the Director of Academics and parents to talk through any implications of withdrawing.
3. If this request is approved, the course will not appear on the student's transcript nor will the student receive any credit for the course.
4. Students will need to complete paperwork, which requires student, teacher and parent signatures.
5. Students have until the half way point of the course to withdraw, and the course will not appear on their transcript. After progress grades appear, if a student is permitted to withdraw from a course, he or she will receive either a WP (Withdrawal Pass) or WF (Withdrawal Fail) on their transcript. No credit is granted.

In rare instances, when a student must withdraw under extenuating circumstances and it is close to the end of the quarter or semester, credit and a grade may be given to the nearest completed nine weeks (.25 or .50). Most of the time, however, the designations of WP or WF will be used and no credit will be awarded.

## **Transcript Requests**

A transcript may be requested by contacting the Counseling Office Manager. Current students will not be required to pay a fee for this service. EMS alumni (graduates or students who left before graduation) may receive up to five transcript requests free within the first two years after leaving EMS. All other transcript requests are \$10 per request. (Official EMS transcripts are released only when the student's account balance is paid in full.)

## **TRANSFERS/WITHDRAWALS**

When a student decides to transfer, or needs to withdraw from EMS, the student and parent will begin the transfer/withdrawal procedure by notifying the School Counselor(s) and/or the Admissions Office. The student and parents will:

1. Notify the school;
2. Complete the official forms, return all textbooks, library books, and other school property; and
3. See that all outstanding bills and accounts are paid.

# **VIII. Course Offerings**

## **ART**

We believe that art is fundamental to the complete education of a developing child. Because we are created in the image of God the Creator, we believe that the arts can be the vehicle to release that creativity in each of us. Through a variety of teaching strategies, art media and disciplines, students can explore and express their reactions to the world they live in, their family unit, and the faith they are developing.

The teaching of art lends itself well to the development of gifted behaviors in students. It is especially useful in stimulating creative, lateral thinking and learning persistence. We aim to develop and reinforce a healthy self-concept through success in the creative process and to open the door to future creative pursuits, whether as a career or an avocation.

Those students wishing to take these specialized art courses, who have not had Basic Art, must have the permission of the Art instructor. These specialized courses may be taken more than once. Students will work more independently and at progressively higher levels. A course taken more than once will show a progressively higher sequence on the student's transcript. (For example, if Watercolor is taken a second time, the student transcript will show Watercolor II.)

### **Middle School Courses**

Middle school Art Exploratory classes are set up to be a modified T.A.B. (Teaching for Artistic Behaviors) course. Students are encouraged to develop their own ideas and artwork as well as dive deeper into the art mediums that interest them. Throughout the art exploratory courses, students will be introduced to various drawing, painting, printmaking, and sculptural materials and techniques. Students will also be required to think and write about artwork and art processes. While most of the artwork produced in MS exploratory courses are self-directed and full choice, students will be required to participate in one class project that is co-lead by our school counselor.

## **ART 6**

### **REQUIRED FOR 6**

In Art 6 Exploratory, students will have the opportunity to learn and experiment with various drawing, painting, collage, printmaking, clay, and craft mediums. Students will be asked to keep a daily log in which they will write about their art experiments, record art terms, and explain decisions and themes of their own artwork. The Belonging Mandala is the required group artwork for Art 6. In this project, students will be asked to think abstractly when creating an artwork that represents themselves. Students will then create artworks with two other students that focus on what they have in common and what is different. When finished, all the artworks come together into one circular artwork that represents the group as a whole.

Throughout the whole process of creating the Belonging Mandala, the school counselor leads group discussions and helps students process what it means to belong.

## **ART 7**

**REQUIRED FOR 7**

In Art 7, students will be introduced to new drawing, painting, printmaking, and sculptural mediums. Students will be introduced to a Weekly Artist who work in these mediums and throughout the week will describe, analyze, and interpret an artwork of the Weekly Artist. Besides having the goal of creating weekly finished artworks, the required project in Art 7 is the Inside-Out Mask. Inside-Out Masks are a visual and physical representation of the figurative masks one wears. Gini Trotter, our school counselor, will work with students to process when and why we put on masks as well as what we are masking and trying to protect.

## **ART 8**

**REQUIRED FOR 8**

This quarter-long exploratory course focuses on the elements and principles of art are interwoven through different media and skills practice. Students continue to explore 2 and 3 dimensions using the TAB framework. As part of the course, students will study art from different cultures. They will also take part in a collaborative art project. *Students who wish to earn the Basic Art I high school credit may choose to continue their study in the fourth quarter.*

## **High School Courses**

### **ART BOOKS AND PAPERMAKING**

**ELECTIVE FOR 9-12; .25 CREDIT**

We see and use books every day. They help us share ideas and learn new things. In this quarter course we will be using books as a medium to communicate our ideas and knowledge visually rather than just with words. We will take a look at every part of the book making process, starting from learning how to make your own paper. We will also be exploring various types of books including instant, accordion, tunnel, and altered books. Prerequisite: Basic Art I. Not offered in 2021-22.

### **ART FOUNDATIONS**

**ELECTIVE FOR 9-12; .25 CREDIT**

Art Foundations focuses on the Elements of Art: line, shape, form, color, value, texture, and space. Various art mediums, including drawing, painting, sculpture, and clay materials will be explored in 2- and 2-dimensional artworks throughout the course. Throughout art production, art critiques, and art history, we will explore how to communicate visually. Emphasis will be placed on visual journaling and classroom assignments. It is advisable to take this course in grade 9 or 10 since it is a prerequisite for advanced art courses such as drawing, painting, and ceramics. Sketchbooks are required for this course. Recommended size is 9x12".

Basic Art II builds on the Elements of Art learned in Basic Art I by adding the Principles of Design that hold the elements in artistic tension. Environmental artworks, printmaking, and bookmaking will be introduced. This course focuses on creating engaging compositions, aesthetics, big ideas, and visual communication through both classroom assignments and visual journals. Sketchbooks are required for this course. Recommended size is 9x12" and may continue sketchbook from Basic Art I. Prerequisite: Basic Art I. NOTE: This course is required for certain electives, such as drawing and painting, and Portfolio.

### **CERAMIC POTTERY**

**ELECTIVE FOR 10-12; .50 CREDIT**

The first half of Ceramics I is an exploratory course in hand-built and wheel-thrown pottery methods as well as glazing techniques. For the second half, students will choose to focus on either hand-building, wheel-throwing, or a combination of the two. Each area of focus will then have a different list of project requirements. Both art production and writing about art are emphasized. Previous art study is advisable but not required.

This course can be taken again as Ceramic Pottery II. Work will be more independent.

## **CRAFTS**

**ELECTIVE FOR 9-12; .25 CREDIT**

Crafts will be a study on traditional and contemporary uses of crafts as an art form. Some crafts which we may explore include weaving, Ukrainian egg dyeing, resin casting, and fiber arts. We will discuss what the value of crafts are in the art world. This course is for students who are interested in creating with mediums outside of the fine arts. Not offered in 2021-22.

## **DIGITAL DRAWING**

**ELECTIVE FOR 9-12; .25 CREDIT**

Digital drawing is an introduction to the use of electronic means for creating drawings and painting. Students will explore a variety of digital painting techniques using Huion drawing tablets and Photoshop Elements 11. Students will be required to create three projects as well as complete weekly assignments. Prerequisite: Basic I and Drawing

## **DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY I**

**ELECTIVE FOR 9-12; .25 CREDIT**

This elective quarter course will be a hands-on introduction to digital photography. Students will learn about how their camera works and how to get the most out of it. They will learn about composition, technique and how to digitally enhance their photographs for print or for the web. As time permits, students will work with image manipulation using Adobe Photoshop Elements.

## **DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY II**

**ELECTIVE FOR 9-12; .25 CREDIT**

This class will build on the concepts covered in Digital Photography I. We will look at more advanced features of Digital SLR cameras, as well as thinking about how to best share work on the internet for others to see. Projects will go beyond the basics and will demand students to take well thought out, high quality, photographs. By the end of this class, the camera will no longer feel like a foreign object in your hands, but as an extension of your creative mind.

Being familiar with SLR cameras is a necessity. Taking Digital Photography I is recommended, but not required.

## **DRAWING**

**ELECTIVE FOR 10-12; .25 CREDIT**

Drawing I is a concentrated study and practice in drawing and sketching. The beginning of the course will be spent learning various approaches to sketching and drawing from observation. A variety of drawing materials and techniques will also be introduced. Besides classroom assignments and projects, weekly sketching time and inspiration pages are required. A sketchbook is required. 9"x12" is the recommended size. Prerequisite: Basic Art I. Basic Art II is Recommended.

This course can be taken again as Drawing II. Work will be more independent.

## **MURAL PAINTING**

**ELECTIVE FOR 9-12; .50 CREDIT**

## **PAINTING**

**ELECTIVE FOR 10-12; .25 CREDIT**

Painting I is an introduction to watercolor and acrylic paints. Emphasis will be placed on painting techniques and use of color in artwork. Projects will include painting from observation as well as abstractly. Weekly sketching time and inspiration pages will be assigned as homework in addition to in class assignments and projects. Sketchbooks are required. Students may continue sketchbooks from drawing. Prerequisite: Basic Art I and Drawing. Basic Art II is Recommended.

This course can be taken again as Painting II. Work will be more independent.

## **PORTFOLIO PREPARATION (Independent Study)**

**ELECTIVE FOR 12; .50 CREDIT**

This is a semester class for students who are preparing their portfolio for admission to a college art program. Students will have assigned work to do and be allowed to work independently in their area of studio interest: 2-D (drawing and painting, or photography), or 3-D (sculpture or pottery). The class will be structured as an AP studio class where not only breadth of work is required but also depth. Included in the requirements will be summer assignments, due in the first week back to school. Students will complete this work as independent study if a specific class time cannot be offered. Prerequisite: It is expected that students will have taken Basic Art I and Basic Art II and other art classes prior to taking this course.

## **PRINTMAKING**

**ELECTIVE FOR 10-12; .25 CREDIT**

This quarter class involves a number of kinds of printmaking using the relief, intaglio, and planographic methods. Students will work with non-toxic materials in etchings, linocuts, woodcuts, aquatints, and monotypes. Beyond learning the three methods by doing their own prints, students will be exposed to historic and contemporary printmakers and be able to recognize their personal styles. Prerequisite: Basic Art I. Not offered in 2021-22.

## **SCULPTURE**

**ELECTIVE FOR 10-12; .25 CREDIT**

Sculpture offers experience in a variety of plastic and three-dimensional materials. Three sculptural techniques are explored as well as contemporary and historical artists known for each method. Materials available are wood, clay, plaster, metal, wax, paper, soapstone, mixed media, found objects and the environment. Prerequisite: Basic Art I or Permission of Instructor.

## **STAINED GLASS**

**ELECTIVE FOR 10-12; .25 CREDIT**

Stained glass will be offered at an introductory level. The history of stained glass will be explored and local examples visited. Students will learn the process of the copper foil technique and be required to do four pieces, one to be 3-dimensional. Students will need to purchase their own glass. Prerequisite: Basic Art I or Permission of Instructor.

**Art Honor Scholar Award Criteria** – The Art Honor Scholar Award will be given to each graduating senior who has:

1. Taken all but three classes offered beyond Basic Art and earned an average grade of at least an A-.
2. Shown an interest in art outside EMHS by involvement in at least three of the following:
  - Interviewing a local artist
  - Attending and reporting on an outside art opening
  - Taking an art class outside of EMS
  - Helping in local church or community artistic activities (i.e., VBS, banner making, bulletin cover designs, summer art programs)
  - Submitting work in an outside art show; i.e. Local high school art shows, JMU, Spitzer Art Center
  - Reviewing local gallery shows
  - Student membership in a local art association (i.e. Spitzer Art Center, OASIS)
  - Volunteering in a local art gallery or art association
3. Been enthusiastically involved in art at EMHS by one of the following:
  - Being a peer helper to other students
  - Being an active member of Fine Arts Club
  - Creating artwork for the school
4. Complete the following required components:

- Helping set up student shows with art teacher
- Having three or more works as a senior in an EMS-sponsored art show

## **BIBLE**

Education begins with an understanding of our relationship with God. The Scriptures as God’s self-revelation are foundational to all of learning since they contain eternal truth, orienting both teacher and student to authority that lies beyond human knowledge. The Bible teachers at Eastern Mennonite School seek to interpret Scriptures in the Anabaptist-Mennonite tradition, as the story of the dynamic relationship with God and His people. Scriptures therefore must be interpreted within the community of believers and within the context of a relationship to Jesus Christ who is the complete revelation of God.

The Bible Department has a central place within the Eastern Mennonite School learning community. Bible Department teachers equip students to analyze, interpret and integrate Biblical principles for living an obedient life of active discipleship. Studies enable students to understand the stories of God’s people, both past and present, which provide guidance for living as a people faithful to God. The Bible Department curriculum reflects a commitment to the standard and spirit of Scripture and seeks to undergird the Scriptural interpretation provided by this Christian community, including the school staff, the homes, and the local congregations.

### **Middle School Courses**

#### **BIBLE STUDY 6**

**REQUIRED FOR 6**

Students will develop a basic understanding of the Bible and the life of Jesus. Students will engage in putting this information together to actively study the Bible through hands-on and cooperative learning activities. The curriculum comes from the Mennonite Schools Council.

#### **BIBLE 7: TRANSFORMED BY THE STORY OF JESUS**

**REQUIRED FOR 7**

Students in Grade Seven will delve deeper into who Jesus is and was, focusing on the reactions of the people and groups who interacted with him. Students will be exposed to the concept that Jesus was the fulfillment of the law. New Testament stories will be examined from a viewpoint of how people were transformed or reconciled after hearing Jesus’ good news.

#### **BIBLE 8: LIVE THE STORY OF JESUS**

**REQUIRED FOR 8**

Students in eighth grade will incorporate the concepts/ideas learned in sixth and seventh grades regarding the identity of Jesus. The concepts will be applied to the story of the local and global church. Students will study how church practices of global denominations and local congregations are connected to the faith understandings. Focus will also be given to how the global and local church practices Jesus’ good news to all their neighbors. This often results in helping to form, inform, and transform others by their practicing Jesus’ good news. Throughout the year, students will examine how their personal story connects with God’s story.

### **High School Courses**

#### **BIBLE 9: CREATION AND PROMISE**

**REQUIRED FOR 9; .50 CREDIT**

This Bible course takes a thematic view of God’s narrative with humanity. The course begins with an introduction and overview of the Bible. Following the Old Testament narrative, the themes covered in this course include: Caring for God’s creation; Listening to God’s voice; and Living God’s way. Each theme is studied using stories from the Old Testament. To encourage critical thinking and synthesis each unit also includes stories from the New Testament along with more modern stories of God’s encounter, love, and interaction with humanity that relate to the focused theme.

## **BIBLE 10: SERMON ON THE MOUNT**

**REQUIRED FOR 10; .50 CREDIT**

Bible 10 is a semester course based on the study of Matthew 5, 6 and 7. Careful reading, study and memorization of the Sermon on the Mount are the focus of the class. Application of the values taught in the Sermon to current issues is emphasized in the second half through a research project of student choice.

## **CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIVING**

**ELECTIVE FOR 11-12; .50 CREDIT**

The study of healthy family interaction, based on Biblical principles, forms a significant portion of this course. Family backgrounds, male-female roles, faith development, dating and engagement, weddings, and communication in marriage are additional topics covered in CFL. Students will conduct a family interview project and an “adulting” (budget) project.

## **GLOBAL ANABAPTISM (Online Mennonite History)**

**OPTIONAL HONORS ELECTIVE FOR 10-12; .50 CREDIT**

The focus of Global Anabaptism is the story of Anabaptists and Mennonites within the broader story of church history. You will learn about the history and faith of the Anabaptist movement, how it morphed into the Mennonite denomination and the global network of churches connected to the 16<sup>th</sup> century Anabaptist movement.

You will read two textbooks and write weekly responses that synthesize what you have learned. You will participate in online faith discussion, you will read from the *Martyrs Mirror*, and you will participate in a Mennonite World Conference presentation at the end of the semester. Finally, you will meet with the teacher and class in five Monday evening sessions.

This class, typically offered in the fall semester, does not meet in the regular day. Students will work in PowerSchool and will need to be self-motivated and be able to complete work and meet deadlines independently. They must meet (or view) at least four of the five evening classes for credit. The class can be taken by sophomores, juniors, and seniors, or freshman with special permission. The class can be taken for .5 Bible or Social Studies credit. Prerequisite: This course is open to sophomores with a 3.2 or higher GPA.

## **GLOBAL CHRISTIANITY**

**OPTIONAL HONORS ELECTIVE FOR 9-12; .50 CREDIT**

The focus of Global Christianity is on the story of the church from Pentecost to the present. During the first quarter, the history of the church is traced from the Apostolic age of the first and second centuries to the Reformation in the early 16th century. Martyrs, emperors, saints, heretics, movements, and Protestant reformers, including Luther, Calvin and the Anabaptists, are all studied during the first quarter.

During the second quarter of Global Christianity the focus will center first on the growth of the church in Europe after the Reformation, primarily in England. Another unit of study will provide an overview of Christianity in colonial America and the United States. Finally, the course will trace the expansion of the Christian church around the world to Latin America, Asia and Africa. **(May be elected for either Social Studies or Bible credit.)** Prerequisite: This course is open to anyone in grades nine to twelve with a 3.2 or higher GPA.

## **BIBLE 12: KINGDOM LIVING**

**OPTIONAL HONORS; REQUIRED FOR 12; .50 CREDIT**

The central focus of Kingdom Living is how the Kingdom of God impacts our lives in the areas of peace and justice, stewardship, salvation, and mission. The story of the Kingdom will be surveyed from creation to the teachings of Jesus. The Bible will be our primary textbook. **Kingdom Living is a required course for seniors.** At the end of this semester course, seniors will give a Senior Presentation to friends, faculty, parents and the community.

**Bible Honor Scholar Award Criteria** – The Bible Honor Scholar Award will be given to each graduating senior who has:

1. Demonstrated academic strength in Bible classes by taking two of the upper-level Bible courses (Christian Family Living, Kingdom Living, Global Anabaptism or Global Christianity) and earned an average grade of at least 90% in both courses. One of the courses must be taken for honors credit. Additionally, the student will submit an entry into the Kennel Charles Anabaptist Contest during their high school years. The annual MCC Peace Essay Contest is usually a good option for a submission to the Kennel Charles Contest – see Bible Department Chair for details. Verification: Bible Department Chair
2. A student may earn a Bible Department *Honor Service Award* if the average grade in the two classes is below 90% and all other requirements have been fulfilled. Verification: Bible Department Chair.
3. Planned and presented one chapel during their high school years. Plans must be submitted to the chapel coordinator and Bible Department Chair for approval. The presentation must be done by the candidate or with another person. A student should have their chapel date established by March 1 of the senior year. An option to the chapel is to lead a small group for at least one quarter. Check with Bible Department for details. Verification: Bible Department Chair
4. Volunteered a total of 20 hours of service for two years as follows:
  - five hours maximum in a school-sponsored project
  - five hours maximum with student youth group or church
  - ten hours maximum planned – and carried out on his/her own
  - Serving as a youth camp counselor for one week meets the criteria.Verification: Project Sponsor, Parents
5. Participated actively in a local church during their junior and senior years by:
  - Attending church youth group activities and/or Sunday School classes 75% of the time, and
  - Volunteering five hours or more in church to teach Bible School, teach Sunday School, attend church committee meetings or other church-related activities other than youth group.Verification: Church Personnel

## **ENGLISH**

All persons have been created in God's image with the unique ability to think and communicate. The English Department commits to helping students sharpen their thinking and communication skills for effective performance in current and future tasks. Writing, reading, speaking, and listening skills are vital to the educational, lifelong development of minds and souls.

English courses serve to strengthen each student's writing ability through guided practice and performance. In addition, students are encouraged to develop Christian values through supplemental reading and literary studies. The program challenges each student to discover a cultural and personal identity through creativity, self-expression, and critical thinking.

To achieve its objectives, the English Department offers courses designed to build a solid basis for comprehensive literacy. Materials used by the English Department include literature textbooks; supplementary grammar resources; on-line resources; and novels.

## Middle School Courses

### **ENGLISH 6**

**REQUIRED FOR 6**

Language Arts 6 examines different literary forms and the craft of writing. Spelling, vocabulary, grammar, editing, independent reading and study skills are also a part of the instructional program.

### **ENGLISH 7**

**REQUIRED FOR 7**

In 7th grade English, we strive to further the development of the "complete thinker". Students will engage in four primary reading units and within each are expected to complete several assignments focusing on analytical writing, critical thinking, collaboration, and presentation. In these four units, students are given agency over their learning in several ways: choice of material, formulation of personal work plan, and opportunities for self-advocacy and revision. While there is autonomy, all work is completed with clear expectations presented by the instructor and with careful adherence to each unit's essential questions which are stated at the onset of each unit. With importance placed on diversity, equity, and identity, students will be asked to examine current narratives and are challenged to ask, "why?". Equal importance is placed on students discovering something of themselves within the texts they read. Additionally, the course focuses on the building blocks of grammar and vocabulary within the context, largely, of the class reading curriculum.

### **ENGLISH 8**

**REQUIRED FOR 8**

English 8 is designed to strengthen students' appreciation for and understanding of quality literature while building their composition skills, their vocabulary, and their grasp of grammar and syntax. This course builds on the goals of English 7. Each quarter, readings and compositions will be structured around a thematic unit, which provides a focus and an interpretive lens for literature and student compositions, and the literature and student compositions, in turn, provide the raw materials for word study and grammar (with grammar units constructed in response to student needs displayed in their compositions). In addition to stories, poetry and novels studied as a class, students select books to read on their own (Independent Reading). In the final quarter, the students prepare a multi-genre research project as a culminating activity that requires them to apply research, writing and editing skills.

## High School Required Courses

*Note: For seniors, in addition to Literature 12, students must select one composition course (listed as Composition 12 in the courses below).*

### **ADVANCED COMPOSITION**

**REQUIRED FOR 11, .50 CREDIT**

Academic writing requires sound reasoning and effective written expression. Students in this course hone skills learned in previous years and develop the revising, editing and polishing skills necessary for academic writing. Assignments in this course include a college admission essay, a supplemental essay, informed argument essay, and reflective writing.

### **COMPOSITION 12: ARGUMENT AND RHETORIC (Optional Honors)**

**MEETS COMP 12 REQ; .50 CREDIT**

Students will apply disciplined steps in researching and writing a formal college level research paper. A completely supported and cited research paper is the product of this course. Students must be prepared to invest a significant amount of time outside the class to complete a quality paper. Efficient reading skills are required to carry out the necessary research. This course is an honors level course (.50 weight); however, students may earn a full weight (1.0) if they meet requirements. **This course or Speech is required for seniors.** This course may be taken as independent study if necessary.

**COMPOSITION 12: COMMUNICATION IN A DIVERSE WORLD****MEETS COMP 12 REQ; .50 CREDIT**

Communication is an essential skill and posture in a diverse world. In this class, students will focus on communication of all kinds, including personal, interpersonal and societal. Students will study and practice an audience-centered approach to speaking effectively in front of others. Students can expect to give a number of speeches while in this class. Another goal is to develop students' nonverbal expression and confidence in preparation for senior presentations. Another component of the class is to look at a communications theory which helps explain how media works. News, movies, television, social media, and advertising are aspects explored in this course. In particular, students learn to distinguish between serious news and entertainment news. Students will learn to identify and consider how to cope with the common persuasion techniques used in advertising. Students will also investigate the Biblical teachings concerning what is "taken into the mind."

**COMPOSITION 12: CREATIVE WRITING****MEETS COMP 12 REQ; .50 CREDIT**

Students will be able to develop writing skills in several literary genres: poetry, short story, drama, informal essay, and journalism. Students will be able to choose an area of concentration. Writings will be critiqued in the classroom setting. Emphasis is on creating manuscripts that are "publication ready."

**ENGLISH FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS (EIS 101, 102, 103)****REQUIRED (see below); .50-1.0 CREDIT**

This course is required for internationals and students who come to EMHS with English as their second (or third, etc.) language. The first level (EIS 101) provides opportunity for these students to improve vocabulary, reading comprehension and writing skills—to give an increased opportunity to master complex academic material. EIS 102 and 103 assists international students prepare for college and university by focusing on academic reading and writing.

**ENGLISH 9****OPTIONAL HONORS, REQUIRED FOR 9; 1.0 CREDIT**

English 9 integrates literature studies with instruction in grammar and writing skills. Writing assignments include a research paper that is a shared project with U.S. History, Reading Responses, creative writing, and vocabulary writing. Major pieces of literature include *Lord of the Flies* and *Romeo and Juliet* as well as units of short stories and poetry. Vocabulary and reading programs are included. (Honors option second half)

**ENGLISH 10****OPTIONAL HONORS; REQUIRED FOR 10; 1.0 CREDIT**

English 10 relies on an inquiry-based approach to literature, writing, and vocabulary study. Teacher-selected text sets and frequent class discussion serve as the starting points for students' development of language and analysis skills. Thematic units include classic and contemporary literature, focusing on how literature offers insight about the world and how to live. An independent reading program seeks to encourage students' love of recreational reading.

**LITERATURE 11****OPTIONAL HONORS; REQUIRED FOR 11; .50 CREDIT**

This course includes English and Western European works such as *Antigone*, *Macbeth*, and *All Quiet on the Western Front* in addition to poetry from the time periods between these milestones. Emphasis is given to the historical and philosophical contexts during which these works were written as well as their relevance to our own lives and world.

**LITERATURE 12****OPTIONAL HONORS; REQUIRED FOR 12; .50 CREDIT**

This course is divided into three parts: the first focuses on short fiction as a vehicle for increasing one's analytical thinking skills within the context of literature. Students will read a variety of stories while using leveled analysis (literal, figurative and relational). The class will then read a common novel to see how techniques remain the same or change with a longer text. Finally, students will work in a group to apply the understanding of literature gained in the earlier part of the course.

## **High School Electives**

### **AFRICAN AMERICAN LITERATURE**

**ELECTIVE FOR 10-12; .50 CREDIT**

This course begins with contemporary Black American voices, especially those heard during the Spring of 2020, and then travels back through selections of Black writing, including authors such as Nikki Giovanni, Henry Louis Gates, Jr., Robert Hayden, Alice Walker, Maya Angelou, Malcom X, James Baldwin, Langston Hughes, W.E.B. Du Bois, Sojourner Truth, Phyllis Wheatley, and others, as time permits. Important goals of the course are to find context for current concerns about racial justice, as well as to expand our familiarity with a range of influential American voices.

### **AP ENGLISH LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION**

**HONORS ELECTIVE FOR 12; 1.0 CREDIT**

This class will focus on preparing students to take the AP English Literature and Composition exam. Students will read, analyze, critique, discuss, and write about poetry, fiction, and drama. Students enrolling in this class must be committed to rigorous reading and writing assignments. The class is intended for students who have already been reading widely and deeply for many years. Students planning to take the AP exam are strongly encouraged to take literature-oriented electives during their junior year. Students taking AP English will not be required to take Literature 12. However, students in AP Lit who wish to be considered for an honor scholar award should also plan to take one of the Comp 12 courses.

College Board publishes a website (“AP Potential”) that correlates combined PSAT reading and writing scores to the score a student will probably earn on the AP Literature exam in May. The PSAT score also helps to predict a student’s readiness to learn and contribute in this class. The requirement for speech or research writing is waived for anyone taking AP Literature. Prerequisite: 3.5 Cumulative GPA and recognized aptitude for course expectations.

### **DYSTOPIAN LITERATURE (Independent Study)**

**ELECTIVE FOR 11-12; .50 CREDIT**

This independent study course allows students to deepen their understanding of dystopian literature. Students will read three pre-approved novels in this genre and respond to writing prompts following the reading. The second part includes reading of articles that analyze this type of literature as well as a creative project in which student envisions their own dystopian novel. Finally, writing a paper that compares and contrasts the three books. This is typically used when a student cannot fit in an English course into their schedule.

### **SHAKESPEARE**

**OPTIONAL HONORS ELECTIVE FOR 11-12; .50 CREDIT**

This course offers a study of three plays and selected sonnets, possibly more depending on the length of the class. Through reading, discussion and viewing films, the course seeks to (1) develop an appreciation for Shakespeare's diction, (2) increase an understanding of and appreciation for selected comedy and tragedy, and (3) teach a general knowledge of some of Shakespeare's more famous characters. (Honor work will require careful analysis, critiquing and explication.)

### **THEATRE ARTS**

**ELECTIVE FOR 11-12; .50 CREDIT**

This course is designed to explore the evolution of theatre as an art form from its origin with Ancient Greek ritual to theatre’s function in our world today. The course will be both academic and performance based as the study of theatre demands proficiency in both disciplines. Daily/weekly readings for the course will be an extremely integral part of each class meeting as discussion will be the primary focus. While there will be classes designed around instructor-led lectures, each student will be required to be focused and actively listening, participating, and challenging others in the class. Critical thinking, reading for meaning (analysis), writing, and collaboration are key components of the course as well. We will examine several texts from the point of view of a scholar, an actor, a director, and a designer - each with a specific project-based goal. Teacher permission needed if a student in 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> grade wants to take the course.

## **WINDSOCK: SCHOOL NEWSPAPER**

**ELECTIVE FOR 9-12; .50 CREDIT**

This course is largely student-led, with two to three primary student editors who solicit ideas and contributions from the entire school. With students serving as editors who have the responsibility to determine the publishing schedule and the types of features and articles that will be included, Windsock is a great opportunity for students to practice leadership, display journalistic creativity, and contribute to a positive, fun, and informed school culture. Windsock is published as a paper copy. Grading options: students who take this course may choose between pass/fail, standard grading, optional honors or honors level grading.

**English Honor Scholar Award Criteria** – The English Honor Scholar Award will be given to each graduating senior who has:

1. Demonstrate classroom investment in learning. 4.5 credits of English are expected by the end of your senior year. Complete those classes with an A- average or higher (junior/senior year):
  - a. Junior Year: Comp 11: Adv. Composition plus Literature 11 (or other electives)
  - b. Senior Year (choose one or the other)
    - i. AP Literature, one Comp 12 course
    - ii. Literature 12, two Comp 12 courses or other English electives
2. Read broadly at an advanced level throughout high school (provide lists from each year in high school).
3. Serve at least one year on the staff of Windsock.
4. Complete one of the following during junior or senior year, and prior to February 15 of senior year:
  - a. Write at least one feature article/essay/poem for publication, monitored and mentored by one of the English teachers. Articles submitted for *Today* magazine, contests, or church publications will fulfill this requirement.
  - b. Prepare and deliver a 10-minute minimum chapel speech, mentored and monitored by an English teacher.
5. Volunteer at least ten hours of reading and/or writing-related work at one of the following places: VMRC, EMHS, EMES, Robert Webb Child Care Center or an equivalent agency doing equivalent work. These hours may not count toward any other requirement. They must be completed by February 14.

## **FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES**

Middle School Philosophy - The Family and Consumer Science Department seeks to strengthen the family through experiential learning. Focus is on a sequence of experiences that develop skills in food preparation, sewing, manners and interpersonal skills, and money management.

### **FCS 6**

**REQUIRED FOR 6**

Family and Consumer Science 6th grade exploratory course is the beginning sequence that emphasizes the basics of the major areas of Family and Consumer Science. In this course students will be introduced to the topics of food science and nutrition, focusing on preparing healthy breakfast options and sewing, constructing a basic fleece square patchwork pillow.

### **FCS 7**

**REQUIRED FOR 7**

Family and Consumer Science 7th grade exploratory course is the second sequence in which emphasizes the basics of the major areas of Family and Consumer Science. In this course students will focus on being a wise consumer focusing on advertisement techniques and becoming a critical viewer of media, food science and

nutrition creating snacks that are healthy and tasty, and sewing constructing a basic drawstring backpack or cinch sack.

## **FCS 8**

**REQUIRED FOR 8**

Family and Consumer Science 8th grade exploratory course is the last sequence in which emphasizes the basics of the major areas of Family and Consumer Science. In this course students will be continuing and connecting with prior knowledge to the topics of money management becoming a wise consumer with spending, saving, and budgeting of money, food science and nutrition preparing a complete meal and its various components, and sewing constructing a simple pair of pajama pants, capris or shorts.

**High School Philosophy** – The Family and Consumer Science Department seeks to encourage and strengthen families through teaching and experiential learning in the areas of:

- Foods and Nutrition
- Stewardship of Money and Resources
- Healthy Relationships
- Lifespan Human Development
- Sewing
- Community involvement and global perspective

## **EATING LOCAL**

**ELECTIVE FOR 10-12; .50 CREDIT**

This course explores the idea of what it means to be "farm to table." Learning with local resources to make connections with farmers, produce markets, and eateries to explore what exactly farm to table means with our community. This course will venture into those connections and help us prepare locally grown foods in the classroom using locally grown produce, meats, and etc. This course will have many opportunities for learning through lectures and/or demonstrations, field trips or guest speakers, and practical hands-on learning experiences. This elective is designed to develop an appreciation for our diverse agricultural area of the Shenandoah Valley.

## **ETHNIC FOODS**

**ELECTIVE FOR 10-12; .50 CREDIT**

Ethnic Foods is an elective to explore common elements in foods from cultures around the world. The students will examine through conducting research and interviewing their community to unpack the uniqueness of the cuisine and culture. The students will gain skills in culinary arts, using the flavorings and preparation techniques that are unique and authentic to various cultural and ethnic cuisines through preparing foods from selected cultures. The elective is aimed to celebrate the ethnic diversity in our own community by finding supplies and ingredients at our local markets, grocery stores, and restaurants.

## **FOOD SCIENCE AND NUTRITION**

**ELECTIVE FOR 12; .50 CREDIT**

Food Science and Nutrition helps students view their bodies as a gift of God, developing skills that enhance health and lifelong healthy eating habits through learning the essentials to the workings of a healthy body. Focusing on proper dietary guidelines through using the MyPlate framework for understanding nutrition moderation, adequacy, variety, and balance. The students will extend their knowledge into the kitchen exploring techniques. As the student's knowledge and skills increase, the opportunity is provided for preparation of completing components of a meal, using the principles of meal management. (Counts as science elective for the General Graduation Plan.) This course may be taken by students in grades 10-11 by permission of the instructor and as space allows.

## **HOUSING & INTERIOR DESIGN**

**ELECTIVE FOR 9-12; .50 CREDIT**

In the first half of the class, students apply design principles to drawing a floor plan and designing a landscape. Also included are units in basic construction, stewardship, a brief history of housing in the United States, housing issues in our community and in other settings, construction materials and finishes. Field trips

to local homes and businesses help students further explore housing options. The second half applies design principles to home interiors. The class includes units in stewardship, room arrangement, backgrounds, draperies and decorating materials. A major project involves choosing materials for decorating several rooms of a house. Field trips to local homes and businesses help students further explore design options.

### **PRACTICAL ARTS: FOOD PRESERVATION**

**ELECTIVE FOR 9-12; .25 CREDIT**

This course focuses on building practical life skills and discovering what it means to preserve food. This course will focus on the reasons and purposes for preserving food items while developing safety and sanitary practices, exploring the processes, ingredients, and equipment within the kitchen workspace to complete the methods of preservation including freezing, canning, drying, pickling, and fermentation. There will be many opportunities for learning through lectures and/or demonstrations, guest speakers, and practical hands-on experiences.

### **SEWING I AND II**

**ELECTIVE FOR 9-12; .25 CREDIT**

Sewing I and II are courses designed for students to cover the basic clothing construction skills. This course introduces or continues teaching students the basic sewing skills, equipment, textiles, and proper techniques of introductory level commercial patterns and basic project construction. The student will choose a project to be made and completed in class. If time allows there may be opportunity for multiple projects. The student will use their knowledge learned and skills to complete the item constructed. *Note: Students will be responsible to purchase their own fabric and notions.* Prerequisite: Sewing I. In Sewing II, students will build on the skills learned in Sewing I.

**FCS Honor Scholar Award Criteria** – The FCS Honor Scholar Award will be given to each graduating senior who has:

1. Taken four of the elective quarter courses offered in grades 10-12 and earned an A average.
2. Demonstrated positive behaviors and attitudes that will make for success in family life and in a people-oriented career. These behaviors include:
  - Dependability and diligent work habits
  - Positive human relations skills
  - Understanding of family relationships
  - Neat and appropriate personal appearance
  - High quality projects
  - Responsibility

Verification: FCS teacher
3. Served ten hours in any of the following ways:
  - Taught Bible School
  - Taught Sunday School
  - Assisted in a church nursery
  - Volunteered at a community organization such as a soup kitchen, thrift shop, Boy's and Girl's Clubs, tutored or read to children, visited someone or volunteered at a retirement community (many other possibilities as well!)

Verification: Supervisor
4. Helped with a special family project. Possibilities include:
  - Making a window treatment and pillows for a room
  - Planning, preparing and cleaning up a special meeting

- Planning, preparing and carrying out a special event or celebration (holiday dinner, anniversary reception, birthday party, etc.)

Verification: Parent

5. Shadowed a professional in any type of FCS work for at least one day:

- |  |                                  |
|--|----------------------------------|
| • Homemaker                            | • Chef, caterer or dietician     |
| • Designer or architect                | • Financial planner or counselor |
| • Seamstress, tailor, workroom manager | • FCS teacher                    |
| • Childcare provider                   | • Extension agent                |

## **MATHEMATICS**

We believe that mathematics is both an art and a tool; it is enjoyable and useful for both solving problems and describing the natural world. We believe that teaching mathematics requires a variety of strategies, which may include lecture, cooperative learning, investigative activities, and skill reinforcement. We believe students should learn mathematics to maximize their potential and enrich their lives.

One purpose for teaching mathematics is to encourage the development of gifted behaviors. Mathematics study and application requires all the gifted behaviors, but is especially useful in developing logical and creative thinking, advanced vocabulary, persistence, and analytical reasoning. We also aim to prepare students for the mathematics they will encounter after high school, whether in practical and career-related situations or in further studies.

Our instructional objectives include the following:

1. Students will learn problem-solving strategies.
2. Students will develop strong numeric and algebraic fluency
3. Students will use technology appropriately and effectively.
4. Students will gain an awareness of mathematics in the world around them.

We employ a number of tools to evaluate whether these objectives are being met. The tool we rely on most heavily is testing. This includes course-specific tests generated by each teacher and standardized tests. Other tools include evaluation of class assignments, class projects, and monitoring annual SAT performance.

### **Graduation Plan Expectations for Math Courses**

The following are the math requirements for the various graduation plans:

- Selective & Highly Selective: Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, Pre-Calculus
- College & Career: Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II
- General: Any three approved math credits, including Personal & Family Finance

### **Sequence of Courses**

*College Preparatory Mathematics* is a comprehensive curriculum dedicated to improving problem-solving skills and highlighting the connections between topics. Students work together in study teams, improving their cooperation and communication. Content is introduced at spaced intervals, allowing students multiple opportunities to practice their skills as they work toward mastery over time. Math 6 students will be evaluated to see if it would be appropriate to skip Math 7 and move on to Pre-Algebra.

Middle School Sequence: Math 6, Math 7, Pre-Algebra, Algebra I

High School Sequence: Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, Pre-Calculus, AP Calc AB or AP Statistics

**MATH 6****REQUIRED FOR 6**

Math 6 begins the transition from elementary arithmetic to higher levels of mathematics. Through the first year of *College Preparatory Mathematics*, students will focus on number sense and operations, proportional reasoning, geometry, probability and data with a focus on the development of algebraic reasoning.

**MATH 7****OPEN TO GRADES 6-8**

Math 7 is the second course of the Middle School series by *College Preparatory Mathematics*. The focus of this course is on the development of number sense and problem solving strategies through explanatories, manipulations, games, projects and applications. Throughout the course, students will gain fluency and confidence in working with fractions, decimals, percentages, tables, formulas, and different ways of solving problems. A growth mindset will ensure students are well prepared for Pre-Algebra the following year.

**PRE-ALGEBRA****REQUIRED FOR 7 or 8**

The focus in Pre-Algebra is to develop the idea of a variable, start moving toward more abstract problem solving strategies, and for students to learn to show their work and explain their reasoning via algebraic manipulation. Fluency with computations and problem solving strategies is necessary to do well in Pre-Algebra.

**ALGEBRA I****OPEN TO GRADES 8-12; 1.0 CREDIT**

Algebra I, from *College Preparatory Mathematics* program, works to ensure competence in fundamental algebraic skills, which are essential for success in mathematics at any higher level. Main objectives of the course include using proportional reasoning, manipulating expressions, solving equations and systems of equations, and graphing linear and quadratic functions. Additional topics will enrich student experience as appropriate. Pre-requisite: Pre-Algebra

**GEOMETRY****OPTIONAL HONORS ELECTIVE FOR 9-12; 1.0 CREDIT**

Geometry, also from the *College Preparatory Mathematics* program, integrates algebraic understanding while developing a conceptual understanding of geometric concepts and spatial visualization skills. Students will participate in the investigation, development, and proof of geometric conjectures. Prerequisite: Algebra I, with a C+ or higher. (Those students earning under a C+ in Algebra I, will be evaluated individually for math placement. Summer remediation may be available.)

**ALGEBRA II****OPTIONAL HONORS ELECTIVE FOR 9-12; 1.0 CREDIT**

Algebra II is a rigorous and challenging math course required by most universities as an entrance prerequisite. The main objective of this course is to study a variety of functions and relations, learn about their applications, and be able to analyze or use them competently. A TI-84+ graphing calculator (Silver or Color is fine) is required. Prerequisite: Algebra I and Geometry, both with a C+ or higher. (Students not meeting the prerequisite will be evaluated individually for math placement.)

**AP CALCULUS****HONORS ELECTIVE FOR 11-12; 1.0 CREDIT**

AP Calculus is a rigorous college level Math course for High School students that develops Differential and Integral Calculus using Limits. A passing grade will earn Honors Credit. In addition, students will have the option to sign up for Dual Enrollment through EMU, and will be prepared to take the AP Calculus AB exam administered by the College Board at the end of the year. Prerequisite: Pre-Calculus with an average of B+ or higher, and a serious desire to grow mathematically.

**AP STATISTICS****HONORS ELECTIVE FOR 11-12; 1.0 CREDIT**

Statistics will introduce students to the major concepts and tools for collecting, analyzing, and drawing conclusions from data. The course will be organized around four broad themes:

- Exploring Data: Describing patterns and aberrations.

- Sampling and experimentation.
- Anticipating patterns: Exploring random phenomena.
- Statistical inference: Prediction and hypothesis testing.

Students who complete this course will be prepared to sit for the Advanced Placement Statistics Exam in May and expected to do so. Students who do well on this exam will be eligible to receive credit at many universities and to enroll in more advanced courses upon entering university. Students with combined PSAT CR + M score of  $\leq 100$  have been shown to have less than a 30% chance of achieving scores high enough for university credit. Prerequisite: B+ or higher in Algebra II. (The Selective and Highly Selective Graduation Plans requires Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, and Pre-Calculus. Statistics will not substitute for one of these four core courses—which are foundational for applying to a selective college.)

## PRE-CALCULUS

OPTIONAL HONORS ELECTIVE FOR 9-12; 1.0 CREDIT

Pre-Calculus, from *College Preparatory Mathematics*, provides the tools needed for college mathematics courses, particularly calculus. Students will construct a deeper understanding of functions studied in Algebra II and Geometry by investigating functions in new ways and working with more abstract forms. Topics include: polynomials, logarithms, trigonometry, limits at infinity, polar coordinates/complex numbers, conic sections, vectors, parametric equations, and sequences/series. The construction and interpretation of graphs are central to this course. A TI-84 series calculator is required. Prerequisite: Algebra II and Geometry with B+ or higher. (Students not meeting the prerequisite will be evaluated individually for placement.)

**Math Honor Scholar Award Criteria** - The Math Department wishes to recognize students that have excelled in their math courses, pursued a deeper understanding of mathematics, challenged themselves, and have shared their talent with those around them. By this recognition we hope to affirm the talents of each student, and encourage them to pursue mathematics further in their future.

To earn the MHSA, students are required to:

- Declare their intentions by Sept 30 of their Senior year, and complete all of the other requirements by March 1 of their Senior year (or at least be on track to do so, such as completing course work or finishing up tutoring hours)
- Maintain a 90% average for all of their math courses, culminating in either AP Calculus or AP Statistics
- Earn Optional Honors Credit in 4 semesters out of the 6 semesters in which it is offered at EMHS:
  - Geometry (2), Algebra 2 (2), and Pre-Calculus (2).
- Participate for 3 years (or as many years as the student has attended EMHS, if less than 3) in the Virginia Math League Contest, taking all 6 contests each year.
- Complete 10 hours of personal tutoring through the math department tutoring program
- Complete 3 of the following additional requirements:
  - Participate in the AMC12 math contest in January
  - Write a research paper on a math related topic
  - Shadow a college student who is a math major
  - Take both AP Calc and AP Stats, or one of EMU's math courses
  - Take Intro to Programming or Robotics

Students interested in earning the MHSA will need the “Math Honor Scholar Award record keeping sheet”, and are invited to talk to their math teacher, or the math department chair, if they have any questions. In particular, transfer students and students taking online classes may want to find out about what can be substituted or exempted from the requirements based on their situation. *Note: It's always easier to start something but not be able to finish, rather than waiting to start until the last minute. So, if you think this might be something you want to work towards, start early and don't put it off.*

## MODERN LANGUAGES

The Modern Languages Department of EMS embraces the concept that the world is a global community. The department is committed to proficiency in the use of language skills--listening, speaking, reading and writing--and an understanding of the cultures in which languages are used. High academic standards are maintained. Gifted Behaviors are cultivated, especially advanced planning, self-discipline, persistence, advanced vocabulary, reading with comprehension and understanding, and sensitivity to others.

Complementing the textbook series used by each language are a variety of resources and activities including computer programs, videos, supplementary readings, projects, presentations, and lunch conversation groups. The department undergirds the school's emphasis on faith and service by discussing issues raised in chapel, inviting missionaries and other service-minded individuals, presenting songs of Christian faith, and assigning Biblical passages for memorization in the target language.

The Modern Languages Department evaluates its goals and objectives through standardized tests as well as teacher-generated tests and surveys given to the students about their classroom experience.

### Middle School Courses

#### LANGUAGES 6 – Mi ciudad

REQUIRED FOR 6

The goal of this course is to introduce and review Spanish language useful for getting around in a Spanish-speaking town or city. Students will be able to discuss where they go in a town and give others directions. In this context, the verb “to go” as well as regular “AR” verbs will be presented. Additionally, students will learn and review basic conversational phrases, numbers and giving the time. Students will also research a city in Mexico and present a poster (in Spanish) about it. As time permits, students will study other world languages in which they are interested.

#### LANGUAGES 7 – Mi mundo

REQUIRED FOR 7

This class focuses mainly on Spanish and expands previous knowledge to discuss the Spanish-speaking world. Students will research and present a tourist brochure about a Spanish-speaking country in Central or South America. Other units of study and review include basic conversational phrases, numbers 1-100, weather and seasons, discussing how one feels using the verb “tener,” food and restaurant vocabulary. At the end of the class, students will visit a local Hispanic restaurant where they will use their newly-learned vocabulary. As time permits, students will study other world languages in which they are interested.

### Courses: Grades 8-12

#### SPANISH I

ELECTIVE FOR 8-12; 1.0 CREDIT

Spanish I provides a broad introduction to the language and culture of the Spanish-speaking world. Vocabulary and grammatical structures are taught in a situational context with emphasis on meaningful communication using the Spanish language. Reading, media and music selections also encourage the development of communication and written skills while heightening the students' awareness of and appreciation for the Hispanic cultural contributions to their world. Prerequisite: For 8<sup>th</sup> grade students, space is limited. Students should have an A- or above in English 7 and Math 7 or special recommendation by teachers (seats in the class will be filled with the students who have the highest grades first and then proceed to the lower percentages).

#### SPANISH II

ELECTIVE FOR 9-12; 1.0 CREDIT

This course continues to immerse students in the Spanish language by reviewing structures and vocabulary studied in Spanish I. We will continue studying the culture of Spanish-speaking societies in the target

language (learning Spanish in Spanish!). Listening, speaking and writing skills are emphasized through practice in reading and listening to stories, songs and authentic resources (magazines, news, shows and videos from Latin American cultures). In Spanish II you will be encouraged to reduce the amount of English you use during class. Prerequisite: Spanish I with a grade of 84 or higher.

### **SPANISH III**

**OPTIONAL HONOR ELECTIVE FOR 10-12; 1.0 CREDIT**

In this course our goal will be to challenge and extend your previous knowledge of the Spanish language. Almost all our class time will be spent using Spanish - not using English to talk about Spanish. You are expected to understand and develop the ability to use correctly: previously learned grammatical concepts, vocabulary, and high frequency structures, along with new aspects of Spanish grammar. You will be expected to express yourself both orally and in writing at a more advanced level. You will grow your knowledge of the culture, history, arts, traditions and peoples of the Spanish speaking world. As this class is challenging, students must be committed to taking the course seriously. Prerequisite: Spanish II with a grade of 84 or higher.

### **SPANISH IV**

**OPTIONAL HONOR ELECTIVE FOR 10-12; 1.0 CREDIT**

You will be expected to express yourself in Spanish (both orally and in writing) at a more advanced level. We will build upon our knowledge of vocabulary and grammar, as well as tackle real-world issues affecting Spanish-speaking cultures around the world (especially as they relate to the Spanish language itself). This includes research and critical thinking, which will invite you to see things from multiple perspectives. The communication skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing are emphasized and used in class each day in order to build language skills as completely as possible. The course is a mix of self-disciplined learning and whole group interaction. Please expect to participate daily in class activities. Be prepared to move, act silly and have fun exploring another language! Prerequisite pass: Earning a passing score on a Spanish IV entrance test.

Students seeking opportunity for **ADVANCED STUDY IN SPANISH** are encouraged to explore with the School Counseling Office the possibility of taking one or more courses at Eastern Mennonite University. EMU permits properly qualified students to enroll in appropriate college language courses.

**Other Languages:** If you have interest in other languages, please talk to your school counselor to determine what online learning option may be best for you.

**Modern Language Honor Scholar Award Criteria** – The goals for the Modern Language Honor Scholar Award are diversity, depth and proficiency in the mastery of modern languages (beyond English). The intention of the scholar award is to encourage the development of fluency in a second (or third language). Requirements are:

1. Intensive modern language study which includes either four years of target language study or three years of one language and two years of a second. Optional Honors required for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of either Spanish or French at EMS.
2. One of the following intensive language experiences: a cross cultural experience in one of the languages studied above, a stay at Concordia Village in Minnesota, a series of service projects or attendance at church services that are conducted in the target language. These experiences must equal a minimum of 14 days.
3. Regular attendance and participation in language conversation groups and club activities. Participation is expected for at least 30% of the activities.
4. Commitment to speaking the target language in class at every opportunity, good work habits, positive leadership, and willingness to help others.

Submit a proposal of your intentions to the chair of the Language Department (Mrs. Yutzy) by the spring of your junior year. You must then record your activities on the form she provides you.

## **MUSIC (to be updated for 2021-22)**

Music at EMHS is an academic program designed to enrich students spiritually and emotionally through active listening, analysis, composition and performance. As an ever-present part of our lives, Music is a primary way to praise God, grow in faith and understanding of God, develop God-given talents and give outward expression to beliefs. Enjoyment and knowledge of music can contribute to student and faculty mental well-being and spiritual health. Music is an essential part of the human experience for each student.

The goals of the department are both short and long-term:

- Students understand and experience music as active listeners and performers and be able to discern quality music in a variety of styles.
- Students develop their vocal and instrumental talents on both an individual and group level.
- Students use their music ability in their congregations and communities and discover how music is an expression of faith and relationship to God.
- Students develop a lifestyle that promotes future use of their musical talents.
- Students develop additional Emotional Intelligence skills as they work together to sing quality music.

The Music Department also intends to provide learning experiences for students who are interested in an in-depth study of music and/or who desire to continue formal musical training after high school.

### **Middle School Courses**

#### **BAND / STRINGS – LEVEL ONE**

**REQUIRED FOR 6**

Band / Strings Level One is a yearlong exploratory course introducing students to the basics of instrumental music. All 6th grade students select either a band or string instrument to study and play individually and in an ensemble for the duration of the year, with that instrumental study providing the practical and concrete groundwork for instruction in basic music theory, music history, and composition. No previous instrumental instruction required.

#### **BAND / STRINGS – LEVEL TWO AND THREE**

**ELECTIVE FOR 7 & 8**

Band / Strings Levels Two and Three are year-long exploratory ensemble courses that will continue the development of skills and techniques introduced in Band / Strings Level One and prepare students for more advanced repertoire in high school.

#### **MUSIC 7**

**REQUIRED FOR 7**

Music 7 is a year-long exploratory course allowing the student to investigate a variety of types of music, to explore and develop personal interests in music and to encourage creativity and self-expression.

#### **Strings Leveling/Proficiency Guide**

During middle school, students will be placed according to their level of familiarity. It is possible that this placement will require students to participate in other courses with other grade levels.

#### **Level 1**

No prior knowledge or experience needed.

## Level 2

Students should be familiar with the following:

- Note Names: Students should be able to name notes in first position accurately in the clef for their instrument.
- Rhythms: Whole note, dotted half note, half note, quarter note, two eighth notes, four sixteenth notes, dotted quarter and single eighth note
- Time signatures: 4/4, C, 3/4, 2/4
- Scales: D Major, G Major, C Major, A Major
- Symbols: Bass clef, treble clef, fermata, repeat sign, tie, key signature, slur, pick-up note, flat, sharp, natural, 1st and 2nd endings, accent, 1 measure repeat sign, dynamics [p, mp, mf, f], crescendo, decrescendo, down bow, up bow, staccato, legato.
- Terms: Solo, soli, tutti, divisi, unison, accidental, dynamics, Allegro, Moderato, Andante, Largo, ritardando, accelerando, sharp (in terms of tuning), flat (in terms of tuning), phrase, round (the form-like a canon), coda, dal segno al Fine (D.S. al Fine). Da capo al Fine (D.C. al Fine)

Performance: Students should be able to:

1. Identify the names and fingerings of the following notes: C natural C sharp, D natural, E natural natural, F sharp, G natural, G sharp, A natural, B natural.
2. Play each note with a proper instrument position and bow hold.
3. Use properly the upper half of the bow (violin and viola), and lower half of the bow (cello and bass)

## Level 3

In addition to the content required for Level 2 strings, students should know/be able to demonstrate the following:

- Rhythms: eighth quarter eighth (syncopation), eighth rest eighth note, eighth note eighth rest, eighth note two sixteenth notes (1&a), two sixteenth notes eighth note (1e&), dotted eighth note sixteenth note (1a), sixteenth note dotted eighth notes (1e), eighth note triplet
- Time signatures: cut time, 3/8, 6/8
- Scales: F major, B flat major, E flat major
- Symbols: Dal Segno, two note up bow staccato
- Terms: syncopation, interval, allegretto, legato, melody, accompaniment, countermelody, enharmonic, chord.

Performance: Students should be able to:

1. Identify the names and fingerings of the following notes: C natural C sharp, D natural, D sharp, D flat, E natural, E flat, F natural, F sharp, G natural, G sharp, A natural, A sharp, A flat, B natural, B flat.
2. Play each note with a proper instrument position and bow hold.
3. Use properly the upper  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the bow (violin and viola), and lower  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the bow (cello and bass)

## High School Courses

### **ADVANCED MUSIC**

**HONORS ELECTIVE FOR 11-12; .50 CREDIT**

Advanced Music is designed for the more musically advanced student. It includes a study of music history and appreciation, with considerable listening experience. Theory is also a part of the study, with a great deal of melodic writing and harmonization. Students will compose and perform compositions on the computer/synthesizer. Prerequisite: Chorus, instrumental lessons, general music or recommendation of the instructor.

### **CHAMBER SINGERS**

**ELECTIVE FOR 11-12; .50 CREDIT**

This is a highly select group of singers who study, rehearse and perform music of a wide variety of backgrounds and styles--from Renaissance to modern, sacred and secular. This choir is made available to

smaller churches as well as civic organizations. An audition is required. Prerequisite: Touring Choir. (Meets daily Second Semester.) Not offered in 2021-22.

### **CLASS VOICE**

**ELECTIVE FOR 11-12; .50 CREDIT**

Class Voice is designed for students who are serious about improving their singing quality. Special emphasis will be placed on learning correct breathing, diction, resonance and interpretation (open to Sophomores, if space permits, with permission from the instructor). Not offered in 2021-22.

### **CONCERT CHOIR**

**ELECTIVE FOR 9-12; .50 CREDIT**

This mixed chorus is made up of eighth graders, freshmen and sophomores who desire to have a good choral experience, as well as learn to sight-read and develop an improved musical ear. Concert Choir members will participate in several conjoint programs and will give a spring concert. No audition is required. (Grades in Concert Chorus will be assigned on a Pass/Fail basis.)

### **DANCE**

**ELECTIVE FOR 9-12; .50 CREDIT**

Dance will introduce students to fundamentals in social partner dancing. This beginner-level course will include topics such as frame, rhythm, partnering, etiquette, and movement. This course will require partnering with other students during class.

### **DIGITAL RECORDING**

**ELECTIVE FOR 10-12; .50 CREDIT**

Digital Recording will introduce students to audio recording technology. Students will learn an overview of the audio recording process, basic principles of audio physics, and gain hands-on experience recording and editing with audio recording and editing technology.

### **GUITAR**

**ELECTIVE FOR 9-12; .50 CREDIT**

Guitar is an introductory level course for students with little to no previous guitar experience. In addition to basic music concepts including melody, rhythm, and harmony, students will learn basic chords and strumming techniques.

### **JAZZ ENSEMBLE**

**ELECTIVE FOR 7-10; .50 CREDIT (YEAR-LONG)**

Jazz Ensemble is open to anyone who plays a jazz band instrument. To earn credit, students must participate in performance opportunities throughout the year (Jazz Ensemble grading is handled on a Pass/Fail basis. Credit will be awarded at the end of the school year.)

### **MUSICAL PIT**

**ELECTIVE FOR 8-12, .50 CREDIT**

Intended for advanced instrumental musicians, Musical Pit will prepare students to play instruments for the school's musical. In this fast-paced course, students will learn and perform approximately 2 hours' worth of challenging music. This will provide a fun challenge distinctly unique from a typical band and strings classes. Instrumentation required for musicals can vary from year to year depending on that year's show. Participating in this class requires instructor approval.

### **ORCHESTRA - BAND/STRINGS**

**OPTIONAL HONORS ELECTIVE FOR 8-12; .25 CREDIT (PER SEMESTER)**

Orchestra - Band/Strings is open to any student who plays an orchestra instrument. Various performance opportunities are available during the year including a fall concert, Christmas concert, MSC music festival every spring, and commencement concert. (Numeric grades will be given for Orchestra.). Students in grades 9-12 can earn honors credit by participating in an instructor-approved outside ensemble, usually one that involves extensive rehearsals. Examples include the Shenandoah Valley Youth Orchestra, District Band, or Junior or Senior Regional Orchestra (the MSC festival is part of the curriculum and does not count for honors credit).

## **SIGHT READING & CLASS VOICE**

**ELECTIVE FOR 9-12; .50 CREDIT**

Sight reading is a course designed to help students learn how to sing a song at sight. The course will cover the background needed to begin to sight read, and then progress to developing the ability to quickly sight read melodies, harmonies, and rhythms. Ear training will be an important part of this course.

## **SONGWRITING**

**ELECTIVE FOR 9-12; .50 CREDIT**

Songwriting is an introductory level course for students interested in writing their own songs. A music background is suggested, but not required. This course will cover topics including lyrics, melody, harmony, and form.

## **TOURING CHOIR**

**ELECTIVE FOR 11-12; .50 CREDIT**

This is a select mixed choir, composed of approximately 40 voices, which presents sacred concerts locally and takes an extensive tour in the spring. Audition is required. (Touring Choir members will receive the traditional letter grades.) Prerequisite: Senior Chorus. (Meets daily Second Semester.)

**Music Honor Scholar Award Criteria** – The Music Honor Scholar Award will be given to each graduating senior who has:

1. Taken at least four elective quarters of music, excluding Junior and Senior Choir, and earned an A average.
2. Written and performed, in class or public setting, an original composition. Verification: Music Instructor
3. Participated in at least one of the following:
  - State choir
  - State orchestra/band
  - Honors choir **OR**
  - Three years of district choir or regional orchestra
4. Attended four concerts with contrasting styles during junior and senior years. Verification: Music Instructor
5. Led singing in at least two chapels during junior and seniors years. Verification: Chapel Coordinator
6. Four hours of musical participation at church occasions. Verification: Pastor

## **PHYSICAL AND HEALTH EDUCATION**

**Middle School Philosophy** - The goal of physical education at EMS is to develop individuals with the knowledge, skills and confidence to enjoy a lifetime of healthful physical activities. Through daily participation, EMMS students monitor their own level of fitness while being engaged in a wide variety of physical activities. Students are exposed to numerous topics that develop positive self-esteem, aiding them in making responsible lifestyle choices.

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION 6 & 7**

**REQUIRED FOR 6-7**

Physical Education instruction at each level will include a preview of a variety of sports and games, including emphasis on physical fitness. There is an emphasis on fundamental skill development and basic game awareness, involving net and invasive games. Pedometers are used to measure personal activity levels. As an introduction to lifetime activities, students take a field trip to the bowling alley.

## **HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION 8**

**REQUIRED FOR 8**

Physical Education instruction includes a variety of team sports and lifetime activities, including bowling and badminton. Sport Education units are used as an innovative approach to traditional team sports. These units focus on structure, fairness, team affiliation, traditions and strategy needed to participate in different sports. Pedometers are used to develop self-monitoring fitness levels. Health topics include drug awareness, self-esteem, stress, decision making, human sexuality and healthy relationships and communication.

**High School Philosophy** - The goal of physical education at EMS is to develop individuals with the knowledge, skills and confidence to enjoy a lifetime of healthful physical activities. Through daily participation, EMHS students understand and incorporate the wellness component of physical activity beyond the constraints of the classroom. Through discussions of contemporary issues students are required to analyze and reflect on the importance of self-awareness in healthy relationships.

## **HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION 9**

**REQUIRED FOR 9; 1.0 CREDIT**

Physical Education instruction will include a variety of team sports, badminton and FitnessGram testing. All students will receive American Red Cross Adult & Pediatric First Aid, CPR and AED training (officially being certified will cost a small fee by ARC).

### **American Red Cross First Aid/CPR/AED Training**

Students may enroll in the American Red Cross course Adult and Pediatric First Aid/CPR/AED. This is a blended course which combines online simulation learning plus an in-person classroom session to learn and practice critical lifesaving skills for certification. Online class can be completed at home or at school during a study hall period. The in-person classroom session would be completed either during or after school depending on schedule availability. There is an extra fee for this class, which covers a two-year certification, all materials, and teacher's time compensation. Valuable certification for working kids camps, babysitting, life guarding, or volunteering with local fire or rescue squads.

## **HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION 10**

**REQUIRED FOR 10; .75 CREDIT**

Physical Education instruction will include fitness activities, team sports, badminton, tennis, international games and FitnessGram testing. Health topics include: alcohol, tobacco, and drug prevention, community involvement, health careers, Safe Dates (with the Collins Center), immune system, environmental factors, safety and injury prevention, and nutrition and physical activity.

## **DRIVER EDUCATION**

**ELECTIVE FOR 9-12; .25 CREDIT**

In-class instruction is offered within the 10<sup>th</sup> Grade P.E. and Health curriculum. Students who have completed and passed in-class Driver Education will be eligible to take behind-the-wheel. Behind-the-wheel instruction is given to 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> students throughout the entire year.

## **ADVANCED PE**

**ELECTIVE FOR 9-12; .25 CREDIT**

Advanced Physical Education will provide learning opportunities for students to further develop skills and knowledge related to fitness, physical competence, cognitive understanding and positive attitudes about physical activity that promote a healthy and physically active lifestyle. Students will acquire knowledge and skills in recreational, athletic and lifetime activities. Throughout this course students participate in a weekly fitness program involving elements of cardio, strength, and flexibility. Not offered in 2020-2021.

**PE Honor Scholar Award Criteria** - Express your intent to complete the requirements for the Honor Scholar Award by meeting with the Department Chair before September 30 of your senior year in order to review the requirements and eligibility criteria:

1. Complete the following sequence of classes with an A- average or higher: 2 quarters of PE 9 or 10 and 1 quarter PE elective OR one quarter EMES PE assistant OR one quarter AD assistant.
2. Lettered in at least 2 varsity sports and acquired at least 3 letters at EMHS or previous school.
3. Been involved in an out-of-season training or instruction in at least one sport (camps, clinics, lessons) for at least one week or equivalent of one week after freshman year.
4. Been a manager for a sport or received at least one of the following awards in one sport: Best Sportsmanship, Most Inspirational, OR been elected team captain of a varsity team.
5. Perform 15 hours of service in athletics: gym set-up, field preparation, teaching lessons, with a minimum of 5 hours working an EMS tournament (Menno Classic, Flames Classic, XC Invitational, Tip-Off Tournament) documented on athletics service log.

## SCIENCE

The EMS Science Department provides a robust, exciting, and comprehensive science curriculum in grades 6-12 including the physical sciences and life sciences as well as many elective courses. While each class has its own particular focus, there are many common threads that are woven within the entire curriculum, including inquiry, reflection, and hands on experiences.

Eastern Mennonite School strives to provide students with meaningful, life-changing experiences within a nurturing, Christ-centered, academically focused setting and to encourage students to systematically progress in their understanding of the scientific world, their impact upon it, and how to ensure sustainability of God's creation. Education is only fully realized when it is lived. At Eastern Mennonite, the Science Department is committed to not only providing students access to the current thought and vast quantity of scientific knowledge available, but also in providing enough experiences applying knowledge to make learning real and authentic.

The goals of the Science Department have students applying scientific concepts to current issues, solving real-life problems, meeting people with diverse views and realizing that their presence can indeed change the world. The Science Department is committed to:

- Developing faith through an appreciation and understanding of our universe as God's creation and our study of it as an act of worship.
- Promoting a model of education through scientific investigations that engages students in the real world, allowing them to be scientists by working with a variety of professionals.
- Fostering a dialogue among educators, students, and resource professionals concerning our nation's growing challenges of resource management.
- Bringing the world into our schools through case studies, interviews, guest speakers, real data and the use of electronics and technology.
- Raising awareness of our need to live sustainably in an ever-changing world.
- Challenging students to consider life choices that reflect the values and belief systems consistent with the Anabaptist perspective.

Exposure to the core sciences is held to be beneficial for all students. Enrolling in Biological, Chemical and Physical science classes provides the framework upon which specialties can be constructed and responsible living can occur. Electives, which provide additional experiences and the pursuit of personal interest, should work in tandem with and not replace these core courses.

As a science department we hope to ignite in our students a love of the natural world and an appreciation for its complexities. As Christians, we hope to engage our students in thoughtful reflection of how God is connected to the natural world. We believe that God is the creator and God's creations are good. We wonder about the methods of creation and draw on scripture and scientific knowledge to inform our understandings. We teach the details and processes of science as they are understood by the science community, including evolutionary science and natural selection. We acknowledge that scientists do not understand everything about creation nor all the change that continues happening in our natural world. We do believe God is behind it all, that evolution and God as creator are not mutually exclusive, that God is still at work creating, and that our ways of teaching science strengthen the authenticity of scripture as a significant part of God's work among us. We hope our instruction leaves every student with a deep appreciation for nature, a desire to engage in more science learning, a love of inquiry, and for many a pursuit of science-related service or career.

We understand that students come to our classrooms from various perspectives regarding creation and evolution. We hope to foster a culture of respect and appreciation of divergent opinions all within the framework of the scientific method, which asks us to question, search for information and data, and come to conclusions. We do not expect students to all come to the same conclusion, but instead encourage each other in deepening our understanding of God, creation and ongoing change we observe. Indeed, we as science educators do not have all of the answers and acknowledge that our individual beliefs are ours alone.

### **Middle School Courses**

#### **SCIENCE 6**

**REQUIRED FOR 6**

Science 6 takes an introductory look at biology, chemistry, physics and earth science--the sciences students study during each of their high school years. Through experiments and projects, students become familiar with the basic terms and concepts of these four sciences, and also learn about scientific method. All students will participate in the Middle School Science Fair in the spring semester.

#### **LIFE SCIENCE 7**

**REQUIRED FOR 7**

Life Science covers basic life structures, classification of organisms, survey of plants and animals and ecology. Students will investigate the cellular organization of plants and animals, explore heredity and genetics, and learn how all organisms are interconnected in our world.

#### **PHYSICAL SCIENCE**

**REQUIRED FOR 8**

The course serves as an introduction to physical science covering: matter, chemical properties and reactions, motion, forces, energy, sound, waves, light, and magnetism.

#### **STEAM 6-8**

**REQUIRED FOR GRADES 6-8**

In each grade level of middle school, this exploratory course will integrate topics studied in science classes using technology, engineering, art, and math. This class will be largely project based from design to build. Students will work individually and in small groups to learn and solve problems with an emphasis on application of knowledge and communication skills.

### **High School Courses**

#### **ADVANCED BIOLOGY (Adv. Placement)**

**HONORS ELECTIVE; .50-1.0 CREDIT**

Advanced Biology is designed to be the equivalent of a college introductory biology course usually taken by biology majors during their first year. Advanced Biology differs significantly from the usual high school biology course with respect to the kind of textbook used, the range and depth of topics covered, the kind of laboratory work done by the students, and the time and effort required of the student. AP Biology will be taught using the College Board Advanced Placement Biology curriculum, enabling students to sit for the

nationally given, annual Advanced Placement Biology Exam in the spring. Depending on the exam score, colleges and universities will award credit and/or allow students to enroll in upper level or select courses within the biological sciences. Prerequisite: A 90% in all previous science classes or permission of instructor, with completion of Biology and Chemistry.

### **ANATOMY & PHYSIOLOGY**

**OPTIONAL HONORS or HONORS ELECTIVE FOR 10-12; .50 CREDIT**

Anatomy and Physiology (A&P) is a project/ laboratory-based course where the student will investigate and understand the structures and functions of the human body. This course will use the manipulation of models, physiological probes and data collection, animal organ dissections, along with lecture, to explain how the functions of the human body are directly related to their structure(s) as well as introduce students to the fields of allied health. Prerequisite: Successful completion of Biology

### **AP CHEMISTRY**

**HONORS ELECTIVE FOR 11-12; 1.0 CREDIT**

AP Chemistry is an introduction to the principles and applications of chemistry. This class is designed to provide the student with a college level chemistry course and lab. Chemistry includes measurements, stoichiometry, atoms and molecules, gases, solutions, molecular orbital theory, crystal lattices, equilibrium calculations, electrochemistry, kinetics, and introductions to biochemistry and organic chemistry. The task of teaching a college chemistry course consisting of 3 hours lecture and 3-4 hours of lab time a week in a 3.5-hour week is a monumental task factoring in the additional distractions of high school and senior year, such as; clubs, sports, assemblies, meetings, and the many senior activities. This means that staying after school to finish laboratories and tests, and a summer assignment will be mandatory! Prerequisite: Chemistry; Co-Requisite: Pre-Calculus. Not offered in 2021-22.

### **BIOLOGY (GENERAL)**

**OPTIONAL HONORS ELECTIVE FOR 9; 1.0 CREDIT**

A course emphasizing a biochemical and molecular approach to the study of life. An understanding of connectedness that permeates our biosphere will be the framework from which biochemistry, cell biology, cellular energies, genetics, evolution, protein synthesis, reproduction and development, taxonomy, ecology, plant and animal behavior, and human anatomy and physiology are explored as time allows. Exposure to historical and contemporary thought and events, which contribute to our current understanding of the living world, will be encouraged.

### **CHEMISTRY**

**OPTIONAL HONORS ELECTIVE FOR 10-12; 1.0 CREDIT**

This course introduces the basic chemical principals including: measurements, stoichiometry, atoms and molecules, gases, solutions, molecular orbital theory, crystal lattices, equilibrium, thermodynamics, kinetics, and introductions to biochemistry and organic chemistry. Laboratory exercises are incorporated to reinforce concepts and develop skills including: measurement, observation, planning, safety, and problem solving. Chemistry is treated both conceptually and mathematically, and problem solving as a process is emphasized in conjunction with each new topic explored. Upon completion of Chemistry, students are well prepared for the rigors of DE/AP Biology, DE/AP Physics, and DE/AP Chemistry classes. Prerequisites: Biology, Co-requisite: Algebra II

### **ORGANIC CHEMISTRY**

**OPTIONAL HONORS ELECTIVE FOR 10-12; 1 CREDIT**

Organic Chemistry provides students with an in depth working knowledge of the chemistry of life. Topics covered in class include: basic inorganic concepts, organic nomenclature, functional groups, organic reactions, stereochemistry, organic acids and bases, polymers, biochemistry, and nanotechnology. Laboratory exercises are incorporated to reinforce concepts and develop skills including: measurement, observation, planning, safety, and problem solving. Organic Chemistry requires good study skills and strong critical thinking skills. This course provides a foundation for students interested in the pharmaceutical industry, the polymer industry, and the medical profession. Prerequisite: Biology & Chemistry. Not offered in 2021-22 (alternates with Dual Enrolled Chemistry).

## **DUAL ENROLLED ROBOTICS I**

**OPTIONAL HONORS ELECTIVE FOR 10-12; 1 CREDIT**

Robotics is the successful development of machines capable of completing complex tasks as autonomous entities or as remotely controlled machines requires input from all science and mathematics. From the examination of biological systems that provide nature's solutions to various engineering problems to the complex mathematics and engineering that are used to solve problems for flight, robotics provides an excellent overriding theme. Robotics is examined by exploring robotics with hands-on tools based on the arduino system (<http://www.arduino.cc/>) and classroom lectures to cover robotics and some of the associated science. Class lectures will attempt to address some of the basic science as well as discuss material assigned. Robotics will also incorporate FTC (First Technical Challenge). Juniors and seniors may dual enroll this class through James Madison University.

## **DUAL ENROLLED ROBOTICS II**

**OPTIONAL HONORS ELECTIVE FOR 10-12; 1 CREDIT**

Robotics II builds on the foundation from Robotics I by adding new sensors and more complex projects. Robotics II is examined by exploring robotics with hands-on tools based on the arduino system (<http://www.arduino.cc/>) and classroom lectures to cover robotics and some of the associated science. Robotics II will also incorporate FTC (First Technical Competition) and FRC (First Robotics Competition). Juniors and seniors that did not dual enroll Robotics I may dual enroll this class through James Madison University. Prerequisite: Dual Enrolled Robotics I

## **DUAL ENROLLED ROBOTICS III**

**OPTIONAL HONORS ELECTIVE FOR 10-12; 1 CREDIT**

Robotics III builds on the foundation from Robotics I & II by adding new sensors and more complex projects. Robotics III is examined by exploring robotics with hands-on tools based on the arduino system (<http://www.arduino.cc/>) and classroom lectures to cover robotics and some of the associated science. Robotics III will also incorporate FTC (First Technical Competition) and FRC (First Robotics Competition). Juniors and seniors that did not dual enroll Robotics I or II may dual enroll this class through James Madison University. Prerequisite: Dual Enrolled Robotics II

## **DUAL ENROLLED ROBOTICS IV**

**OPTIONAL HONORS ELECTIVE FOR 10-12; 1.0 CREDIT**

Robotics III builds on the foundation from Robotics I & II by adding new sensors and more complex projects. Robotics III is examined by exploring robotics with hands-on tools based on the arduino system (<http://www.arduino.cc/>) and classroom lectures to cover robotics and some of the associated science. Robotics III will also incorporate FTC (First Technical Competition) and FRC (First Robotics Competition). Juniors and seniors that did not dual enroll Robotics I or II may dual enroll this class through James Madison University. Prerequisite: Dual Enrolled Robotics III

## **ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE**

**OPTIONAL HONORS ELECTIVE FOR 10-12; .50 CREDIT**

This inter-disciplinary course encourages students to be active in seeking knowledge about the natural world, to deepen awareness of the interconnectedness of the relationships between humans, nonhumans, and the nonliving environment, including their own personal impact within the interconnected system. Students will recognize the role that social science plays in environmental issues.

## **PHYSICS**

**OPTIONAL HONORS ELECTIVE FOR 11-12; 1 CREDIT**

Physics is designed to introduce a wide range of introductory Physics topics to students who have completed math courses through at least trigonometry. Students learn to appreciate the role that Physics plays in the world around them, and through reading, lecture, and laboratory they gain an understanding of the principles and concepts on which physics is based. The course covers classical Newtonian Physics, and several classic experiments are repeated to verify the laws of motion. Other topics covered in class discussion and laboratory investigation are Conservation of Energy, Momentum, Rotational Mechanics, Gravitation, Heat and Thermodynamics, Harmonic Motion, Wave Motion, Sound, Light, Optics, Electricity, Magnetism, Special

Relativity, General Relativity and Quantum Mechanics. Extended lab work and outside-of-class reading and writing are included in additional assignments. In addition, one major hands-on project will be assigned each semester. Physics is treated both conceptually and mathematically, and problem solving as a process is emphasized in conjunction with each new topic explored. Upon completion of Physics, students are well prepared for the rigors of a freshman-level college physics course. This course is available for Honors Credit. Co-requisites: Pre-Calculus & Chemistry.

**NOTE:** Food Science and Nutrition, Grade 8 Physical Science, Human Development, and Robotics I/II count as science credit for the General Graduation Plan

**Science Honor Scholar Award Criteria** – The Science Honor Scholar Award will be given to each graduating senior who has:

1. Earned **95% or higher each semester** in required and elective courses. **Optional honors** must be completed for at least **two science courses**.
  - a. Required courses: Biology Chemistry
  - b. Elective: At least **four** more semesters of science with at least one semester chosen from each of the following three areas: Physics, AP Biology, Environmental Science OR Earth Science
2. Attended at least one science-related workshops, conferences or seminars.
3. Involved themselves in an experiential learning activity such as Discovery, a science enriched E-term, summer robotics assistantship or a science lesson taught to elementary or middle school students. Science lesson must be reviewed by a science faculty member prior to presentation if this option is selected.
4. Completed 10 scientifically-related volunteer hours in work that is cleared by a science faculty member.

*\*Independent study may be used to satisfy some of the criteria listed. Each project will be evaluated for merit by science faculty to determine the specific requirements for which the independent study may be substituted.*

## **SOCIAL STUDIES**

The Social Studies program is designed to help students understand themselves in terms of their relationship to their country and the world. Course offerings follow the disciplines of the social studies, and emphasize personal, social, and intellectual education. Personal education emphasizes self-understanding and identity; social education emphasizes the expectations of living in a local, national and global community, stressing group participation. Students will learn the facts, concepts, and generalizations of the social studies as well as systemic problem solving. Courses are taught in the context of the belief that God not only calls each person to a relationship with Jesus Christ, but also affirms that God is sovereign over history and social forces.

Goals for the department include:

- Helping students gain an understanding of the past in order to better understand the present.
- Giving instruction in globe and map skills and geographic concepts.
- Challenging students to transcend national and cultural boundaries and see themselves as a member of the worldwide community.
- Helping students understand economic principles and their impact on individuals, societies and the world.
- Presenting opportunities to appreciate and understand other cultures.

- Challenging students to become active participants in service to God and their local, national and global community.
- Utilizing class activities that develop skills of interaction and group decision-making.
- Learning the process of government and the importance of the individual in influencing that process.
- Presenting attitudes, beliefs and behaviors of responsible citizenship.
- Giving opportunity to integrate personal Christian faith in the social, economic, and the political spheres.
- Promoting critical thinking and decision-making from a Biblical perspective.
- Encouraging empathy and understanding of other cultures. (In order to most effectively promote empathy and understanding of cultures, EMS offers U. S. History in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade and World History in the 11<sup>th</sup>.)

## **Middle School Courses**

### **SOCIAL STUDIES 6**

**REQUIRED FOR 6**

Students will explore American history from 1856 to the present, examining through an Anabaptist lens the changes and challenges the United States encountered. Some of the key topics include: industrialization, immigration, the world wars, the Great Depression, the Civil Rights Movement, geography and current events.

### **SOCIAL STUDIES 7**

**REQUIRED FOR 7**

Social Studies 7 is a year-long course in ancient world history. A study of ancient civilizations helps students see contributions to our American culture. Students will learn about the influence of Judaism, Christianity and Islam on our world. Students will also study civilizations of the Middle Ages in both Europe and the Far East as well as American civilizations.

### **GEOGRAPHY & GLOBAL STUDIES**

**REQUIRED FOR 8; [.50 CREDIT OPTIONAL]**

Geography & Global Studies is a semester long course that allows students to practice skills of inquiry and research while learning more about their world. A focus will be on comparative government, economics, and world religions with geography skills and knowledge woven throughout the course. Additional topics and learning will be student-driven. Students may opt to contract with teacher to earn .50 high school credit by completing a special project and provided that they maintain an A- in the class.

## **Required Courses**

### **U.S. GOVERNMENT**

**REQUIRED FOR 12; 1.0 CREDIT**

U. S. Government deals with the workings of the American Government at the national, state and local levels. Special attention is given to current economic and political events. (Ninth or tenth grade Government or Civics will not satisfy the EMHS Government requirement.)

### **U.S. HISTORY**

**REQUIRED FOR 9; 1.0 CREDIT**

United States History surveys the historical, social, cultural and religious past of the American people. Special emphasis is given to history during the students' lifetime.

### **WORLD HISTORY**

**OPTIONAL HONORS; REQUIRED FOR 11; 1.0 CREDIT**

This yearlong course will trace the story of history from early civilizations to the modern world. Two other primary goals of the course will be to learn world geography and become aware of international current events. Students can elect to complete optional honors projects for this course.

## **High School Electives**

*Students pursuing a selective or highly selective graduation plan must take an additional 1.0 credit (two .50 courses) to fulfill the requirement.*

## **AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY**

**ELECTIVE FOR 11-12; .50 CREDIT**

This course will provide an overview of the African American experience in the United States from Africa through the present. Specific units of study include the expansion of slavery, the civil war, reconstruction, the Jim Crow laws of the South, the Civil Rights Movement, the Black Lives Matter Movement and current race relations in the United States. The course also includes an emphasis on local history of African Americans in Harrisonburg and the Shenandoah Valley.

## **AP WORLD HISTORY MODERN**

**HONORS ELECTIVE FOR 11, 1 CREDIT**

In this yearlong course, you will study world history, you will learn the basics of world geography, and you will become informed about international current events. This is a world history course, and approximately seventy percent of the material that we study will be non-European history. An emphasis on the origins, development, spread, and beliefs of major world religions will be included in the course of study. Students will prepare for and take the AP World History Modern course in May 2022.

## **CONSTITUTIONAL LAW**

**ELECTIVE FOR 10-12, .50 CREDIT**

This course will focus on an in depth look at our Constitutional Rights as US Citizens. We will learn how the Supreme Court works and look at legal opinions that have been handed down by SCOTUS which have created legal precedent that is used today. Throughout the course you will get a chance to moot Supreme Court cases and we will follow current cases and questions of precedent which are being heard in the current Supreme Court term. Not offered in 2021-22.

## **ECONOMICS**

**ELECTIVE FOR 10-12, .50 CREDIT**

Students will learn how people manage limited resources to satisfy their needs and wants, personally, nationally, and internationally. Students will analyze basic principles of economics and complete a personal finance project. They will discover foundational elements of managing personal finances, and students will learn about national and international economics. (This course is open to Sophomores who have a 3.2 GPA or above.)

## **INTRODUCING PSYCHOLOGY**

**OPTIONAL HONORS ELECTIVE FOR 11-12; .50 CREDIT**

Psychology introduces students to the science of behavior, its principles, methods, language and usefulness. The course offers students an opportunity to dialogue on issues involving faith, values and feelings, as well as sharpen and improve their self-understanding and understanding of others' behavior. The Psychology textbook has been approved as an AP text, so the content is quite rigorous. Students enrolling in Psychology should have at least a 3.0 GPA. (This course is generally **not** open to Sophomores. If space in the course is available, Sophomores who have a 3.5 or above GPA may be eligible.)

## **MASS MEDIA**

**ELECTIVE FOR 11-12; .25 CREDIT**

Mass Media students are introduced briefly to a communications theory which helps explain how media works. News, movies, television and advertising are four aspects of the Mass Media which are explored in this course. In particular, students learn to distinguish between serious news and entertainment news. Students will learn to identify and consider how to cope with the common persuasion techniques used in advertising. Students will also investigate the Biblical teachings concerning what is "taken into the mind" vs. the material TV and movies put "into the mind." (**May be elected for either Social Studies or English credit.**)

## **ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERSHIP**

**ELECTIVE FOR 9-12, .50 CREDIT**

Students will learn about four major facets of organizational leadership, the study of leaders and leadership theory, organizational structures and mission, principles of organizational finance, and data analysis for strategic planning. OL is an interdisciplinary course with elective options in math (students will learn spreadsheet skills), English (there will be substantial reading and succinct writing), or social studies (extensive learning on how to work with people).

## **SOCIOLOGY AND SOCIAL ISSUES**

**ELECTIVE FOR 10-12; .50 CREDIT**

Sociology, a study of group behavior, includes an examination of group differences and interaction and an analysis of major social problems. The basic concepts, principles and practices of sociology will be explained, introducing students to the fields of sociology and social work. (This course is open to Sophomores who have a 3.2 GPA or above.)

## **WOMEN IN HISTORY**

**ELECTIVE FOR 11-12; .50 CREDIT**

**NOTE: Global Anabaptism, Global Christianity may also be elected for Social Studies credit.**

**Social Studies Honor Scholar Award Criteria** – The Social Studies Honor Scholar Award will be given to each graduating senior who has:

1. Earned an average grade of at least A- (90% or higher) in U. S. History, World History, Government, and also an additional one and one-half credits of social studies electives (Economics, Psychology, Mass Media, Sociology, World Issues, Global Anabaptism, Global Christianity, Child Development)..
2. Demonstrated an interest in the social studies discipline within the classroom through a speech that was given, an essay that was written, a project undertaken
3. Read a book that features history, political science, or social issues and then complete a book chat with a teacher, write a book review or share a book talk with a class. Verification: Classroom Teacher
4. Documented at least one time he/she have been able to show an interest in the Social Studies field of study. This may include expressing and defending an opinion in class; participating in a political, social or humanitarian cause in the community; writing a significant opinion essay or blog; or some other way of showing your interest in Social Studies at school or in the community. Verification: Classroom Teacher
5. Volunteered ten hours doing some type of social service for community or school. These hours may not be used for any other assignment or award. Verification: Supervisor

## **ELECTIVES**

The following courses are not counted toward a specific department but are counted as elective credit. Each graduation plan has a set number of minimum elective credits needed to complete the plan.

### **ACADEMIC LAB**

**ELECTIVE FOR 7-12; .50 CREDIT**

Students needing academic support in a focused environment will take Academic Lab. During this period, they will use required coursework to strengthen and develop study skills. Each quarter students will focus on one or two individualized goals of their choosing. Recording assignments daily, completing and turning in assignments on time, making and using study cards, and maintaining an organized binder are some of the areas that may be addressed.

Students interested in enrolling in this course must consult the School Counseling Office before choosing this course during the Course Request period. The class, generally limited to five students per period, may be repeated as necessary.

## **COMPUTER PROGRAMMING WITH PYTHON I**

**ELECTIVE FOR 9-12; .50 CREDIT**

This course will introduce students to the language and structure of computer programs, learning to write code and problem solve at the same time. Students will work at their own pace to write programs of increasing difficulty, and finish up the semester with a series of projects, and will design their own program to demonstrate what they have learned. No previous experience necessary.

## **COMPUTER PROGRAMMING WITH PYTHON II**

**ELECTIVE FOR 9-12; .50 CREDIT**

This course is the continuation of the INTRO TO PROGRAMMING course. Students will continue in their development of programming techniques using the Python language from where they left off. Prerequisite: Intro to Programming

## **PUBLICATION DESIGN**

**ELECTIVE FOR 9-12; .50 CREDIT**

Students will develop an understanding of preparing a print publication. Course instruction includes an introduction to graphic design. The primary focus of the course will be production of *Ember*, the school yearbook. A pass/fail grade will be assigned.

## **INTERNSHIP (High School)**

Eastern Mennonite School offers a wonderful opportunity for students who are dedicated to their career planning and education. The internship program is designed for juniors and seniors who are interested in experiencing "first hand" a particular career or career field. Students who participate in the internship program work with a professional in the community to gain experience and insight into medicine, veterinary medicine, computer science, finance, accounting, administration, sales, journalism, music, photography, art, architecture, engineering, technology, manufacturing, agriculture, and many more. Students choosing to participate in the program would receive a high school credit, in lieu of payment from the intern sponsor.

Participation in this program requires the student to work at the internship site. The student will be required to provide his/her own transportation to and from the internship site. The interns will meet regularly with the program coordinator to discuss relevant topics relating to employment, as well as issues and concerns relating to their specific internship placement.

The student must be dependable, responsible, punctual, and have a desire to intern within a professional environment. Success in the program will depend upon the parent's support and the student's commitment. The program coordinator and teachers will provide on-going direction and support to help ensure the process. Conversations about an internship placement should happen in the spring before your junior or senior year.

## **INDEPENDENT STUDIES**

In some instances, students may need to take an EMHS course as an independent study to complete a graduation requirement. Teachers will monitor the work and assign the final grade.

Occasionally students do participate in research projects under the supervision of a faculty member. These opportunities allow students to extend their learning in positive ways; however, these special projects require significant initiative and self-direction; therefore, the teacher and counseling staff must believe the project will serve the academic needs of the students and the schedule of the teacher.

## **LIBRARY ASSISTANT**

**ELECTIVE FOR 9-12; .50 CREDIT**

Students may choose to assist in the Library one period each day of the week. Library skills/training will be offered, after which the assistant will have an opportunity to participate in a variety of jobs with books and periodicals. A pass/fail grade will be assigned.

Students must receive approval from the Librarian prior to registration. With the approval of the Librarian, interested students may be allowed to repeat this elective in the same school year or subsequent years.

## **ONLINE COURSES**

As described earlier in this handbook, students may need to take coursework through an online provider. If a student would like to take a course through another provider, then the family will cover the costs. See the Counseling Office for more details.

## **ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERSHIP**

**ELECTIVE FOR 10-12, .50 CREDIT**

Students will learn three major facets of organizational leadership, the study of leaders and leadership theory, organizational structures and mission, and principles of organizational finance. The course will conclude with a business simulation, as time allows. OL is an interdisciplinary course with elective options in math (students will learn spreadsheet skills), English (there will be substantial reading and succinct writing), or social studies (extensive learning on how to work with people).

## **STUDIES ABROAD (or in other locations)**

Studies abroad or in other locations can dramatically increase understanding of other cultures, world issues, languages and enable students to develop useful cross-cultural skills. Talk with your school counselor for details if you would wish to study abroad.

## **TEACHER ASSISTANT/IT ASSISTANT**

**ELECTIVE FOR 10-12; .50 CREDIT**

A limited number of students may elect to become a Teacher or Instructional Assistant. As an assistant, you will be expected to work one period each day of the week for a minimum of one quarter with a particular teacher. Sometimes that work will happen during a particular class period, so the student will assist other students. A teacher assistant may also assist the teacher with a variety of clerical tasks and background preparation for lessons. Teachers are especially interested in assistants who desire to explore the teaching profession. Teachers may also be willing to serve as a research mentor.

A Pass/Fail grade will be assigned. This elective may be repeated if an assignment can be found. If students wish to serve as a teacher assistant in an EMES classroom, they should talk with the elementary principal first to obtain approval.